THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. POPE.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE answer of the Spanish Government to the Notes of France and the Holy Alliance has become known in London during the last week. Little curiosity, however, has been gratified by this, for little curiosity previously existed. There was no man who did not confidently foresee the tone which would be adopted by Spain—there was no man who was not assured that it could be but of one tenor. No answer, however, has been directly returned to the communication of the Allies;—the Spanish Government regarded it, and justly, unworthy of its character and dignity to reply to a communication so full of calumny, contumely, and insult. "This document," says the Note laid before the Cortes by the Spanish Foreign Minister, "this document, full of distorted facts, defamatory suppositions, accusations equally unjust and calumnious, and vague requests, does not call for any categorical or formal reply on any one of its points."* No one, indeed, can have read that memorable paper without being amazed at the extent to which calm, cool, hypocritical assurance can reach. For our own part, we are glad that the declaration of the Congress is so plain-spoken and unveiled. It is the most unequivocal manifesto which the Holy Alliance has yet given to the world. It places beyond doubt all those points of accusation which many moderate men have hitherto considered coloured and overcharged. It is the undisguised, unabashed assumption of the right to interfere in the domestic concerns of *all* states which may be regulated in discrepancy with their maxims of Government—it is the direct avowal of the determination to permit no amelioration of the condition of the subject by any act not originating from the Sovereign,—which is tantamount to declaring war against any amelioration at all. That there are *no* circumstances under which the popular assertion of popular rights will be permitted, is made manifest by the expression of disapprobation of the insurrection of the Greeks. If ever there was a case in which Resistance was a right, and Insurrection a duty, it is this. Every feeling which exists in the human bosom—every claim which speaks to the human heart—called on the Greeks to rise as one man to burst the bonds of their thraldom into twain. Their religion was outraged—their altars were desecrated—their homes were invaded. Oppression, the most violent and the most grinding, was the only heritage to which they were born in the land of their glorious race. "Slaves, nay, the bondsmen of a slave," their property was at the nod of every deputed despot who played the tyrant over them, as he had truckled before *his* masters—their families even,—their nearest and dearest, those bound to them by blood and by affection,—were but as hostages at his mercy—their very lives existed only in the word of his mouth. And when at last, after long years, long ages, of wrong, and insult, and degrading, debasing, degenerating thraldom, oppression worked its inevitable consequence, and the Greek, fallen and sunken as he was, at length

> "Snatched from the ashes of his sires
> The embers of their former fires"

—when at last the dwellers in that land, where every scene, every spot, every name, speaks of glory, and glory earned in the cause of Freedom, were aroused from their grovelling state of sloth and apathy, and answered the call which proclaimed them indeed the Παίδες τῶν Ἑλλήνων,—and led them to win a second Thermopylæ;—then come forth the Sovereigns of civilized Europe—the arrogators of exclusive, or at least pre-eminent, Christianity—and brand with the epithet of a "criminal rebellion" the struggle of Christian men to throw off the yoke of foreign and Pagan barbarians.

But the time, we think, is fast approaching when these meddlers with the matters which concern them not, will have sufficient on their hands at home. They are drawing on themselves their own ruin—they are effecting their own downfall. Like unskilful engineers, the mine which they are sapping for the destruction of the enemy will fall in and crush them. The tokens of the times are of no common nature; and they are gathering with fast-encreasing rapidity. We wish to point out some of these,—but shall first return to the matters more immediately under our consideration—the affairs of the Peninsula;—and these, indeed, will naturally lead us to the more general observations which we design to offer to our readers.

The Circular to the Spanish Ambassadors answers the various and lengthy accusations brought against the existing Government in Spain in the following eight brief sentences—on each of which we shall make a few remarks.

1. The Spanish Nation is governed by a Constitution which has been solemnly recognized by the Emperor of Russia.

This may at first appear somewhat startling to our readers, who have been witnesses of all the anathemas which the magnanimous ALEXANDER has, for the last three years nearly, been thundering forth against this very constitution—but it is true to the letter;—for thus speaks the treaty entered into between Spain and Russia in 1812:—"His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias acknowledges as legitimate the General and Extraordinary Cortes now assembled in Cadiz, as well as the Constitution which the latter have decreed and sanctioned." Another of the Holy Alliance, Prussia, speaks the same language. "His Majesty the King of Prussia acknowledges his Majesty, FERDINAND VII. as the only legitimate King of the Spanish Monarchy in both hemispheres, as well as the Regency of the Kingdom, which, during his absence and captivity, represents him, legitimately elected by the General and Extraordinary Cortes, in conformity to the Constitution sanctioned by the latter, and sworn to by the Nation." So much for what the Holy Despots thought, or at least said, of this now execrated Constitution in the days of their distress. The Spanish Circular proceeds thus:—

2. The Spaniards, friends to their country, proclaimed, at the commencement of 1812, that Constitution which was abolished by violence alone in 1814.

This is a brief but conclusive comment on the diatribes so lavishly poured forth by the Alliance against all changes of institutions effected by force. It was by force that FERDINAND, on his return from the captivity which his conduct had made inglorious, set aside the Constitution and made himself absolute—it was by force that he gave himself the power, which he used so amply, to banish, behead, and imprison the very men by whose noble and devoted exertions he was restored to any power at all. If force, therefore, set aside the Constitution, it was lawful to have recourse to force to restore it. But we would place this lawfulness on a much broader basis. It is manifestly idle and absurd to say, that the doctrine that no change of institutions shall take place which does not emanate from the Crown, is not tantamount to the declaration that there shall be no change at all:—at least none that diminishes the power of the King.—Now, are

* A sample of the spirit which actuates the French Ultra Journals with regard to Spain may be gathered from their garbled mistranslation of this introductory paragraph of the Circular Note to the different Spanish Ambassadors. Determined that the tone of the Spanish Government should be, as they had prophecied, intemperate and violent, they condensed the above sentence into the following,—"It would be unworthy of the Spanish Government to reply to the Notes of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, because they contain nothing but a tissue of lies and calumnies." This was copied into the London Journals, till the arrival of the Spanish Papers enabled a correction to be made. The difference is just that between proper pride and firmness, and undignified violence. The words of the original are these—"*hechos desfigurados, suposiciones denigrativas, acriminaciones tan injustas como calumniosas, y peticiones vagas.*

there any persons at this time of day, excepting the patrons of the *Etoile*, the *Quotidienne*, and the *New Times*, and the dwellers in Bedlam, St. Luke's, and the Retreat at York, who will say that Absolute Power and the Inquisition ought not to be removed by force, if force be necessary?

3. The Constitutional King of Spain freely exercises the powers which the Constitution has bestowed upon him.

This is in answer to the assertion, that the King was directly coerced. That the powers given to him are but small is true, and that he is regarded with much jealousy and suspicion we readily believe. The wonder, indeed, would be, if he were not. Is a man, whose government was tyranny—whose religion is drivelling and bigotted superstition—whose whole conduct was the foulest ingratitude—is such a man again to be entrusted with power again to abuse it? The Spaniards would indeed be fools if they did not pare the claws—not of the lion, we will not degrade the noble beast by the comparison—but of the tiger-cat, now they have him in their power. Their behaviour to the King has been both wise and merciful—at once firm with reference to the rights of the Nation, and compassionate as personally regarding himself. The blood of PORLIER and LACY might, had the chiefs of the Revolution been intemperate and revengeful, have been atoned for by that of FERDINAND: but no,—deep as their injuries had been, they forgave them—mean, cruel, and blood-thirsty as the King had shewn himself, they spared him. We rejoice, warmly and unfeignedly rejoice, that they did so. The deeds of Patriotism and Virtue have not been sullied by the shedding one drop of blood—the regenerators of their country have shewn that they are guided by a spirit more truly Christian than was ever displayed by the canting arrogators of all religion to themselves—the bawling deniers of all religion in others.

4. The Spanish Nation does not interest itself in the internal government of other nations.

This is quite manifest, and indeed is allowed on all hands; it might, therefore, furnish fair ground for the determination expressed in the 7th Declaration, "The Spanish Nation will not acknowledge the right of any Power to interfere with its affairs." It would be very extraordinary if it did. The Spanish Nation has, beyond all denial, confined its revolution within its own territory. It has shewn no desire to make converts; it has not, in the most indirect or remote manner, interfered within any other state. Surely, then, it has a right to expect to be left to itself. "But the example," say the Despots, "the example spreads." Aye, does it so? and why?—because it is seen to be beneficial. But it is strictly the *example* alone;—and is it to be asserted that the Spaniards are to remain in a state of oppressive thraldom, at the mercy of a heartless wretch, who would be despised as a fool if he were not execrated as a tyrant—are they, we ask, to remain under the absolute rule of FERDINAND, and the dominion of the terrible Inquisition, because a Russian Czar, or a German Kaiser, fears that his subjects may think a limited preferable to an autocratic sway—being free men better than remaining vassals, serfs, and slaves? Are the men who dwell by the Pillars of Hercules to consent to remain in bondage for fear those who border on the White Sea should be excited by the example to murmur under *their's?* Really, if we did not see these things seriously advocated every day, we should consider them too monstrous to enter the mind of any one who aspires to be called a reasonable being.

5. The remedy of the evils which afflict the Spanish Nation is for its own consideration alone.

6. Those evils are not the result of the Constitution, but rather of the efforts of its enemies to destroy it.

That they are so, no unprejudiced person who has duly investigated the subject can, we think, doubt; but, to make this [illegible] apparent, we may cite the example of *Portugal*. There we hear of "miseries resulting from an insane constitution"—"from the rule of a republican faction;"—there we hear [illegible] of "the inevitable consequences of all revolutions—anarchy, rapine, violence, and destruction,"—and why do we not? Simply because the revolution has been left to itself—because it has been suffered to perfect in peace those changes, the first adoption of which must certainly create some confusion. Is it to be expected that a mass of abuses so enormous can be abolished without some convulsion? Is it to be supposed that the body of unholy interests, which fattens on the public wealth;—which, like the vampire-bat, sucks the blood of the nation slumbering in sloth and servitude,—will resign without a struggle the privileges, the powers, the riches which such a system has given them? No;—it is only wonderful that the resistance has not been greater—that it has been so easily suppressed. In Portugal, with which there was no foreign interference, the consolidation of the new order of things has been equally rapid, steady, and peaceful. The undoubted and notorious interests of the community prevailed, almost without a struggle, over the corrupt advantages of the few. But in Spain, those interested in preserving or restoring an absolute Kingly power which, as delegates, they shared—immense Prelatic revenues, which formed their riches—all those who profit by an exclusive, aristocratic, and hierarchical system, were fostered by any encouragement from without,—were furthered, when the time came, with direct assistance. And when the discontents, which naturally and confessedly existed, had been nurtured and excited by foreign intrigues and preachments, into open resistance—when the monks whose convents had been suppressed, and the nobles whose privileges had been abolished, together with the bigots who clung to the one, and the banditti which followed the other, mustered courage to wield the weapons which the French emissaries put into their hands—then the very instigators, the causers, of this revolt, exclaimed—"See! Revolution has ended, as it always must, in civil war—the majority of the nation is kept down by a faction which has got into power!" Of what real weight and numbers the Servile party is in Spain, the fate of the Army of the Faith, with all its foreign assistance, has already plainly shewn. And if the Government were left untroubled with foreign violence to devote its undivided attention to domestic regulation, we have not the shadow of a doubt that in six months Spain would stand in the same position that Portugal does now.*

The Spanish Declaration concludes thus:—

8. The Government will never deviate from the line traced by its duties, by national honour, and by its unalterable attachment to the Constitution sworn to in 1812.

We trust that it will not—we trust that it will pursue with firmness, dignity, and moderation, the consolidation of the mighty interests entrusted in its hand. It is vain to imagine that a change so vast as that which has been effected in Spain will not be attended with some violences arising from the excitation of popular feeling on the one hand, and from the resistance of the sufferers by the change on the other. In all revolutions there are, and there must be, many extravagant and violent propositions and manifestations from those intoxicated with the excitement of the moment,—but these are no more to be weighed against the ultimate good, than are the nauseous taste and smell of the medicine by which our sickness is healed. If it *be* healed, we must be foolish indeed to lay much stress on such trifling concomitant draw-backs. But there has been *less* violence in the revolution in Spain than the circumstances would have led one to believe at all possible. Indeed we may challenge contradiction when we say, that never were there national convulsions in which the good effected was so great, and the

* That Portugal, however, considers its safety to be involved in that of Spain is evident from the treaties entered into between the two countries, and its application for an explicit declaration from our own. It is with real satisfaction that we find a proper answer to have been returned by our Government, which the reader will find in the usual place.

attendant evil was so little, as the regenerations which the last three years have witnessed in Europe.

The manner in which the Despotic Powers of Europe have interfered with Spain, is, as we have said, likely to recoil on their own heads—that is, if they proceed farther in their course. The French Army of Observation has not remained so long on the frontiers of Spain for nothing. Like that which assisted America in liberating herself from England, it has imbibed the spirit of Freedom from near contact with the free. The French Ultras feel that the Army is not to be fully trusted, and that even if it were, should they march it into Spain, immediate insurrection might be looked for at home—insurrection against the gradual, but speedily gradual, abolition of that charter, of those rights, which they did and suffered so much to acquire—against the restoration of that system which they again would do and suffer as much to prevent or to destroy. The Ultras, madly rash and infatuated as they are, are not blind to their danger—and how do they seek to avert it?—By making their government stable from consonance with the wishes of the people?—No—but by the gathering of a Prussian army on the Rhine, and an Austrian army in Southern Germany, to be ready to march to their assistance in case of need. Reports to this effect have been current during the last week, and we believe them fully—at least, we believe that the French Government will not send their army into Spain without some proceeding of this kind being adopted. The Prussians are gathering on the Rhine?—Do they remember Valmy?—Do they remember when they before entered France for the purpose of forcing an odious Government on an indignant people?—when the French, in the midst, at the very height, of their internal distractions, shewed the beginning of that stupendous power which afterwards overran Europe, by driving, like sheep, their invaders beyond the frontier?—The Austrians too—do they remember the effects of their meddling with the Revolution in France?—the loss of the Netherlands—the annihilation of the Empire—might, we think, still live in their memory. If these haters of all Revolution—these declared warrers against knowledge—do in truth assist in furthering another eruption in Europe, they are like to require that knowledge, at least, which is gained from misfortune—they are like to know something personally more of Revolutions than they do now.

Every thing is at this moment ripe in Europe for a convulsion of no ordinary nature. The "eternal spirit of the chainless mind" has gone forth into the lands of slavery and suffering—into the very Palaces of tyranny and moral darkness. The subjects of these states see what they have to hope from those who rule them. In the day of adversity and peril, these haughty Kings became their people's sycophants—they sued humbly for their help, and promised lavishly and solemnly, in reward, to grant as a favour what was inherent as a right. The people rose at their bidding—fought their battles—repelled their enemies—restored their power;—and then—oppression, insult, and contumely, were the coin in which they were repaid. They have not forgotten these things;—they are not insensible to the thraldom in which they live—they have not beheld unmindfully the successful assertion of human rights by others. The train is laid; if the match be applied to it, the explosion will be sudden and terrible. If the people of Germany be, by the means we have stated, brought into contact with those of France and Spain—if war once more agitate Europe,—and bring back those times in which enterprising spirits love and have means to strive—then will the Powers, which now hurry on the consummation, have bitter cause to repent their bigotry and blindness. We fear that Russia is yet too much sunk in barbarism—locked in the apathy of incivilization, as its own soil in its winter's frost—to hope for any speedy regeneration there. But even there it must come at last. The days are irrevocably past when doctrines like these disseminated from Verona can long remain unscrutinised. The day of retribution will come even there—it is, we hope and we believe, near at hand with the other heads of the Cerberus Conspiracy. Much as we always regret the interruption of peace—much as we should lament any thing which might be of detriment to Spain—we are not sure that we ought not to desire the continuance of these mad designs, as likely to be of the most ultimate advantage to the rights and interests of humanity. B.

COUNTY MEETINGS.

HEREFORD.

This Meeting was held on the 17th instant, in the Town-hall of Hereford. In consequence of the High Sheriff's refusal, Earl Somers, the Lord-Lieutenant, had convened it, and took the chair. The hall contains 5,000 persons, and it was thronged with the gentry and farmers of the county. The leading gentlemen in the county came in with his Lordship about half-past 11 o'clock, and were received with applause. Mr. Cobbett (who had been made a freeholder of Herefordshire the day before) arrived at the same time, accompanied by his hosts, the Messrs. Palmer, of Bolltree Castle, near Ross.

Lord Somers opened the business in a speech of some length, in which he particularly impressed upon the meeting, that the alarming distress of the agriculturists was the great object they had met to consider—that the introduction of party politics would be injurious to their interests—that the interests of landlord and tenant were essentially the same—and that it was only by unanimity they could hope to succeed. His Lordship's address was received with great approbation.

Mr. Pattesall proposed a series of Resolutions, which attributed the unparalleled distress, "among other causes, to the sudden return to cash payments, and to an excessive over-proportion of public burdens pressing upon land." The Resolutions recommended, as specific measures of relief,—a strict economy of the public expenditure; the repeal of taxes pressing on the land, and (in particular, as regarded Hereford) of half the hop-duty; obliging personal property to contribute to the poor-rates and other burdens now exclusively thrown upon the land; a "reconsideration of the Currency Act, and its modification so as to relieve Agriculture;" a Reform in the Collection of the Revenue, by which millions might be saved; the substitution of a justly-modified property-tax (not affecting gains in the course of acquisition, but all actual vested property) in lieu of the Assessed Taxes; and a reduction of the legal interest of money to 4 per cent.

Mr. Cobbett next presented himself to the Meeting, and was received with a clamour of applause and hootings. The Chairman interposed, and procured silence. Mr. Cobbett observed, that it might be deemed presumptuous in him to oppose anything recommended by their respectable neighbours, and he should have been extremely glad if, in the Resolutions proposed, he could see any adequate proposal for relief. But the Resolutions were not explicit enough: they did not call for what was necessary, and what they did call for was precisely what Ministers had determined not to grant. "Now," said Mr. Cobbett, "I can tell you what the Ministers mean to do. I can tell you officially, though I do not come from the Treasury confidentially, as some of the newspapers tell you." *(A cry of you come from Holmes,—intermixed laughter and cries of No.)* "Yes, I can tell you out of a five shilling and sixpenny book, issued out of the Treasury—the author of that book I declare here to be Thomas Peregrine Courtenay, Secretary to the Board of Control, and acting in this book under the authority of Lord Liverpool. I'll tell you more: 1,000 copies of that book were taken by the Treasury from Hatchard, the publisher. Do I blame the Ministers for it? It is their justification, and why should I blame them? I never did blame Ministers—*(cries of hear, and laughter)*—what I mean to say is, I never blamed them more than the rest. In this pamphlet Ministers declared they would not repeal Mr. Peel's bill—they would not make Bank notes a legal tender—that the country bankers must be ready to pay in gold on the 1st of next May—that the whole amount of taxation which they will take off will not exceed two millions, and these no more for the particular relief of the farmer than those taken off last session. But the fatal error of the Ministers was this, and it was the basis of all the evil: here he must say, that he did not mean to accuse the Ministers of intentional evil—that was impossible to suppose; *(hear! and a laugh)* nay more, he believed the Opposition would have pursued exactly the same course. It was Mr. Ricardo who had repeated the old Scotch doctrine of Adam Smith, that all taxes fell on the consumer: this doctrine might be very well as applied in several instances to trade, but not to real property. This he could illustrate in the simplest manner. Suppose a maker of candles—the duty upon them at first is 6*d.* per lb. but afterwards the Government laid on 1*s.*—will the consumer pay this? Yes, so far as he buys: but will he buy the same quantity? No; and what is the result?—that the chandler, to get rid of his stock, must reduce the price partially, and sell some beneath the cost. So it was with the landlords and farmers. If all went on smooth with the landlord and tenant, then the consumer undoubtedly paid the taxes; but if, as was the fact, the case was the reverse, then who paid them?—not the consumer, but the farmer and the landlord in the depreciation of prices. Out of the gross error that the consumer paid the taxes, arose the whole evil. Mr. Cobbett then commented in strong terms upon the "Jews and Jobbers of Change-alley," and read a Petition which he wished the meeting to adopt, and which was nearly in the same words as that adopted by the Norfolk Meeting—

(inserted in the *Examiner* of January 5.) The call upon the fundholders could not with justice be made, until the church and the placemen were compelled to relinquish their exorbitant claims. The church lands alone ought to be made to redeem 100 millions of the debt. He knew well how the land was affected, and had himself lost 15,000*l.* by mortgage. *(Laughter.)* On the subject of reform, he was not bigotted to plans; he cared nothing about universal suffrage, so that the people were in any way honestly represented, and the House of Commons a check upon the Government of such a nature as their Noble Chairman's ancestor had contended for.

Mr. Cobbett was heard throughout with attention, and there was some slight applause at the close of his speech. The Chairman asked him how he meant to propose his Petition; and after some discussion, Mr. Cobbett moved that it should be put as an Amendment.

Mr. PALMER seconded the Amendment. He had heard of preaching patience to the people—he had not much of that virtue himself; but if a man were to come to him, and preach up patience while his last bed and last shilling were tearing from him by the system, by God—*(loud cries of Order)*—he would repeat, by God, if the jaw-bone of an ass were near him, he should use it as Sampson did against the Philistines. *(Applause and uproar).*

The Reverend Mr. SMITHIES could not silently allow a proposition of such a nature to be foisted on the county by one who could not have any interest in common with the freeholders at large. *(Applause and disapprobation.)* He volunteered an arduous task in standing forward to reply to such an adversary as Mr. Cobbett, a man of practised eloquence. He was not, as Mr. Cobbett was, an itinerant political tinker. *(Applause and opposition.)* He knew how easy it was for men to be captivated by the display of strong powers; but they had been all his life prostituted to every party in every country. *(Great uproar.)* Mr. Cobbett commenced his public career as a writer in the servile pay of Government: he went out in that capacity to America for the purpose of putting down the spirit of independence! but the spirited sons of liberty discarded him, and the Government dismissed him in the end. He returned to England and adopted a new set of principles, becoming at one moment a Whig, at another the associate of Sir Francis Burdett—not the friend, for he verily believed he was never the friend of any man in existence—[*Applause and opposition.* Mr. Cobbett here, seemingly agitated, exclaimed,—"Who is that man?" A voice replied, "A parson."—"Ay, I thought so," he replied.] After these transmutations he became a radical. He had said the Resolutions were not explicit; very condescending indeed for Mr. Cobbett to come amongst them, to tender unasked the benefit of his co-operation *(a laugh)* as if, without his aid, the county of Hereford could not express its complaints in intelligible language! In one point he was ready to agree with Mr. Cobbett—that to proceed without attacking the national debt in some shape would be nugatory. What right had the public creditors, who had lent in money of one value, to expect repayment in specie of a much higher currency? Mr. Cobbett himself seemed to feel there was something a little arrogant in his appearance there—hence his apology at the outset. He wished that such part of Mr. Cobbett's propositions as was applicable to the case, had come from a resident gentleman—not a freeholder of one day old. The Reverend Gentleman concluded by proposing a Petition of his own, which traced the national evils to the facility of borrowing given to the Government by the Bank Restriction Act of 1797—to the importations of foreign corn, the abundant home produce, and the large sums spent abroad by the Absentees. The principal remedies it prayed for were—another Bank Restriction Act, to prevent the notes being paid in gold until the Debt should be reduced to its amount in 1797; and a tax on funded property equivalent to the taxes peculiarly affecting the land.

Mr. THOMAS DAVIS, in rising to second this proposition, declared that they would disgrace the county if they adopted Mr. Cobbett's amendment. That individual travelled about from county to county, as the apostle of discontent and spoliation. *(Cheers, and some opposition.)* What else but spoliation was it to propose to rob the landlord of his remedy, the annuitant of his deeds, and the mortgagee of his mortgage? *(Hear, hear!)* He looked very suspiciously at the tender of co-operation from a man who had veered round every point of the political compass —[*Hear hear!* Mr. Cobbett—"And you are veering any where but to the question." *Much hissing and confusion.*] In 1792 Mr. Cobbett was the friend of Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville, whom he now insults. He then became the friend of Sir Francis Burdett, whom he abused. [*Groans and hisses.*—"How did you behave to Sir Francis, Cobbett?" Mr. Cobbett could not conceal his mortification: he sometimes fixed his eyes with anger on the speaker, and sometimes vented his resentment in such expressions as—"The sorry dog—the base—sorry dog."] But let the Meeting look to the conduct of this man to the farmers, who have now the honour to boast of his especial friendship. There was the book—there was (holding up a volume of Cobbett's *Register*) the "nice little book," in which he called the farmers a pack of rascals.—("*Read, read, and bravo,*" *with hisses.*) Mr. Cobbett called the farmers a base race of men; said that they supported a set of ruffians, and shot those under their command.—["*Turn him out—he ought not to be amongst us.*" Mr. Cobbett called out—"give me the book to read!"] To finish the climax, he called them a set of "fat-jowled fellows." *(Great confusion.)* No doubt the opinions of Mr. Cobbett were entitled to weight, but if he had any sense of shame about him, he ought, instead of offering himself to their attention that day, rather to have slunk out of the room amidst the execrations of all present. *(Loud applause and hisses.)* The Hon. Gentleman then pointed out a variety of remedies which he thought applicable to the state of the country. In the first place, he thought resorting to the sinking fund would afford five millions to the wants of the country---then reducing the establishments of the country to the estimate of 1792; but the Minister would, he knew, refuse compliance: if he touched the sinking fund, his best friends, the 'Change-alley jobbers, would raise their arms against him; if he reduced the establishment, he would dry up some source of patronage which the Government were involved in retaining, and indeed, without which, as Mr. Canning had said, the business of the Government could not be carried on.

Mr. CHARLTON admitted, with the mover of the resolutions, that great and unexampled distress prevailed; but he so far concurred with Mr. Cobbett, that they were not sufficiently explicit. He was not disposed to dispute the greater part of Mr. Cobbett's propositions; but he must be permitted to regret that the proposition did not emanate from some gentleman better known to the county. Mr. Cobbett did not appear to him to have touched sufficiently upon the real causes which affected the condition of the community. He (Mr. Charlton) attributed them chiefly to that utter dereliction of principle which characterized the higher classes of society. So notorious was the prevailing corruption in those quarters, that it was universally admitted from the time of Sir Robert Walpole, on the successive authorities of Lord Chatham and Mr. Pitt, even down to Lord Londonderry himself, that it was as notorious as the sun at noonday. Ministers, in almost the same breath that they support religion and morality, by building churches and erecting penitentiaries, encourage gambling and depravity by their lottery-bills, fraud and dishonesty by their insolvent debtors' act, perjury and fornication by their marriage act, and every species of crime, by promoting the most unheard-of distress. *(Applause.)* He had come 200 miles to attend this meeting, and he should do the same to-morrow to discharge a similar duty, even though he risked the imputation which had been levelled at Mr. Cobbett, of being an itinerant politician. *(Loud laughter.)* He would do so to evince his firm determination to resist the continuance of those disgraceful and disgusting measures which had so long characterized the legislature of this country.

The CHAIRMAN here rose to order, and submitted to the Hon. Gentleman, whether such language was decorous towards the legislature.

Mr. CHARLTON asked how, when speaking of violent and ruinous measures, it was possible to reflect in any other than strong and forcibly descriptive language?

The CHAIRMAN said, that he did not complain of the use of strong language, but he thought the term "disgusting" not proper on such an occasion.

Mr. CHARLTON regretted to be obliged to differ from the Noble Chairman; for, on the contrary, he thought it clearly in order to speak as he had done, of the measures which he, in common with every honest man in the country, so justly reprobated.

The CHAIRMAN repeated, that he thought the particular expression was out of order.

Mr. CHARLTON reiterated it, and repeated, that in no other language could he animadvert upon these measures: the language was proper, and it was that uttered by every conscientious man—it was not, indeed, the language of what are called quiet country gentlemen—of those

> "Whose blood was very snow broth---who never feel
> The wanton stings and motions of the sense"---

but it was the language of persons regardless of consequences, who, firm to the interests and character of their country, were prepared to make every personal sacrifice to avert the ruin which they saw so fast approaching. *(Applause.)* Mr. Charlton concluded by proposing the following Petition:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The humble Petition of the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Hereford, in County Meeting assembled, this 17th day of January, 1823—

"Most humbly showeth,

"That the distress under which your petitioners are now suffering is unexampled in the history of this country, and is rapidly involving all landowners and persons engaged in agricultural pursuits in immediate and inevitable ruin. That your petitioners, called upon by the requisition and summons of the Lord Lieutenant to investigate the causes of this distress, as well as to suggest such measures as may in their opinion tend to the removal of it, feel it their duty, humbly, yet strongly, to state to Parliament the result of their deliberations on these most momentous subjects. Your petitioners have no hesitation in ascribing all their calamities to the principles and system on which the administration of public affairs has been conducted during the late reign, and that of his present most gracious Majesty; to the unfortunate wars in which the country has almost incessantly been engaged during that period; to the profligate confusion and corruption which have distinguished every department of the State; to the inconsistent and contradictory expedients which the Legislature has had recourse to, to supply the means of an enormous and uncontrolled expenditure; to the ruinous and arbitrary measures, first, of a debased paper currency, and then of a transition to metallic payments at the old standard, without reference to the financial difficulties of the country, or contracts between individuals entered into during the previous system; but above all, to the subserviency of public men to the administrations of the day; that it is scarcely necessary for your petitioners to enumerate the awful consequences evidently flowing from these causes—the property of the country mortgaged for debts bor-

rowed, and engagements contracted in proportion to the fictitious value of produce, and of rents during a depreciated currency—its industry burdened beyond example, by a taxation imposed under similar circumstances—an impoverished aristocracy! a ruined yeomanry! and silent revolution proceeding steadily to its consummation: that your petitioners, yielding to none of their fellow subjects in loyalty to their Sovereign, and unshaken attachment to the constitution, are willing to submit to any equal sacrifice which may be required of them to avert so dreadful a calamity, and although they feel great difficulty in pointing out specific remedies for the prevailing distress, and have little confidence in any expedients which have hitherto been resorted to for that purpose, nevertheless, they venture to suggest to your honourable House such measures to arrest the further progress of these evils, as are clearly just and equitable and for the public good, however much they may be supposed to interfere with the wishes of interested individuals. They therefore pray that your honourable House will forthwith direct an examination into the effects produced by the different alterations in the currency, with a view to a fair and reasonable arrangement of contracts between debtor and creditor, both public and private, in all their various relations, particularly in those of tax-payer and tax-receiver, landlord, tenant, mortgagee, and annuitant, as shall replace all parties, as far as practicable, on their former footing, according to the relative value of money and other commodities during the late war; and that by such means you will prevent, by some equitable adjustment, the entire sacrifice of the agricultural property and industry of the country, to the monied interest; that you will be pleased to suspend and apply to the public use, all pensions and sinecures obtained without acknowledged service to the State; that you will cause the strictest economy to be observed in the collection and management of the revenue; that the army and staff in Great Britain and Ireland, the diplomatic establishment, and all civil offices, with the salaries attached to them in every department, be reduced to the scale of 1792.

"That you will be pleased to pass a bill, excluding all pensioners and placemen, except those whose presence may be necessary to the management of public business, from the House of Commons; that the efforts of such representatives as are returned by the people in the public cause, may not be impeded and rendered nugatory by persons whose interests are directly at variance with those of the public.

"That under the severe pressure of difficulties so overwhelming, you will be pleased, till such arrangement of contracts as they have suggested can be decided on, entirely to suspend the operation of the sinking fund, and repeal such taxes, particularly the hop-duty, as will restore to the agricultural proprietors of the nation, the prosperity and confidence they enjoyed when no such state of things as your petitioners have complained of existed. "And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

Mr. T. A. KNIGHT expressed his approbation of the proposition to take part of the enormous Church Property for the public service. He strongly objected, however, to parts of Mr. Cobbett's proposals; for example, that to suspend the landlords' remedy. With what justice could that be restrained, while the landlords remained liable to every claim upon themselves?

After the Rev. Mr. Lilly had spoken, a great dispute arose about the mode of proceeding with the numerous propositions before the meeting. At length Mr. Patteshall withdrew the original Resolutions in favour of Mr. Charlton's Petition. Mr. Cobbett demanded that his Petition should be put next, and attempted to address the assembly, but the opposition was now so strong and general, that the attempt was quite vain. During the uproar, Mr. C. repeatedly exclaimed, that it was too bad to prevent a man so personally attacked as he had been from replying.

The CHAIRMAN—You have a right, Mr. Cobbett, to be heard; but I would submit to you, is it desirable for you to attempt to speak against the evident sense of the Meeting?—(*Bravo! we will not hear him.*")

Mr. CHARLTON—Gentlemen, I entreat that you will hear Mr. Cobbett.

Several voices—No, never! the fellow is too well known here,

Mr. CLIVE—I rise to order. I think your Lordship said that each Gentleman had a right to reply on his own petition.

Mr. COBBETT—The personalities, Mr. Clive, the personalities—this is too bad.

The CHAIRMAN—I say again, he has a right to be heard.

Mr. CHARLTON—I think your Lordship said only in explanation.

Mr. COBBETT—Yes, in explanation. I have little else to address to you. I'll say what I have to say in ten minutes.

During this dialogue the confusion was as great as ever. Mr. Cobbett stood at the front of the hustings, patiently waiting an opportunity of speaking. But the intentions of the Meeting were too forcibly expressed.

Mr. COBBETT—It is too bad—it is disgraceful to attack a man, and then not allow him to reply.

The CHAIRMAN—You see, Sir, I cannot help it. I have done every thing in my power for you.

Mr. COBBETT—You have, my Lord; and I am very grateful to your Lordship.

Mr. Cobbett remained a short time longer in a position to address the Meeting. At last he exclaimed—"Well, my Lord, put Mr. Charlton's petition."

The Chairman then put Mr. Charlton's petition, and the show of hands in favour of it was conclusive.

The CHAIRMAN—I declare that Mr. Charlton's petition has been adopted by this Meeting, and I further declare that the business of this Meeting is ended,

Mr. Cobbett received the declaration with a loud laugh. Lord Somers immediately left the Chair. Thanks were voted to his Lordship. The petition was ordered to be circulated throughout the county for signature, and presented to the House of Lords by Lord Somers, and to the House of Commons by the County Members.

SOMERSET.

On Tuesday, a meeting of the inhabitants of this county was held at Wells, in consequence of a requisition addressed to Vincent Stuckey, Esq the High Sheriff, to petition Parliament respecting the Agricultural Distress. About 4000 persons assembled in front of the Town-hall. The County Members and a number of leading gentlemen were present. Mr. H. Hunt, who had previously published his intention to attend, arrived in a post-chaise about 11 o'clock, and was cheered by the assembly. At 12, the High Sheriff took the chair, and opened the business.

Mr. HANNING spoke at some length on the subject of the extreme depression of the landed interest, and pointed out the heavy burdens which he considered as peculiarly affecting the land. He did not demand high prices or high rents, but that the landed interest should be placed on an equal footing, in regard to taxation, with other classes. He concluded by proposing a Petition to Parliament, in which public economy and a commutation of tithes are prayed for in general terms, the poor-rates and other parochial taxes complained of as peculiarly pressing on the land, and their mitigation urged, by partially throwing the weight on other classes. [When the reading of the Petition was finished, the people shouted "*Reform, Reform!*"]

Mr. SANDFORD seconded the Petition, because it prayed for a reduction of our overgrown establishments and a commutation of tithes. With regard to the vital question of Reform, a requisition had been presented to the Sheriff, to call a separate meeting on that subject.

Mr. HUNT concurred in what the Petition prayed for, but thought it by no means strong or explicit enough. Mr. H. proceeded at some length to express his delight at seeing a meeting like the present, animated by such a spirit. Twelve years ago, he observed, at a meeting in that very place, he had been hooted down by a body of persons, for proposing the very measures which are now advocated by the Magistrates of the county. He was surprised to hear Mr. Hanning and the other magistrates complaining of the county rates, seeing that those rates were imposed by the magistrates themselves. But did the meeting know, that the general turnpike act, passed last session by Parliament, enabled the commissioners to impose a heavier tax upon the poor man's cart than upon the petty tyrant, the magistrate's carriage?—(*Cheers.*) "Where," said Mr. H. "were your representatives, as they are called—Mr. Dickinson and Sir Thomas Lethbridge—where were they, I wish to know, when this act passed into a law? Where, I say, were those relievers of agricultural distress?—(*Laughter.*) In regard to the poor-rates, they were just and necessary; but there were two sorts of poor—the great poor and the little poor. Lord Grenville, Lord Arden, your men with pensions or sinecures of 40,000*l.* or 50,000*l.* a year—these are the paupers who impoverish the labourer, hang upon his gains, and live in idleness by the sweat of his brow.—(*Great cheering.*) Mr. Hunt continued—"I am here, after two years and a half imprisonment for speaking my mind, ready, notwithstanding, to speak my mind again. I will endeavour to do it like a gentleman; but still I will speak out plainly. Your representative, Sir Thomas Lethbridge—no doubt in private life he is a very honourable man; but, in his public career, I stand here to tell him to his face, that he has voted for every tax of which the meeting to-day will complain.

Sir THOMAS LETHBRIDGE—I think that won't do.

Mr. HUNT—Sir Thomas will be heard in his turn. His lungs are as good as mine, and he has as much of the modest assurance, as the people call it.—(*Laughter.*) I say he has voted for taxes through thick and thin.—(*Cries of "No, No!"*) I say he has. I have as much confidence as most men, and am not ashamed to stand here to utter any thing that is true; but I declare that, if I had voted for the taxes as Sir Thomas Lethbridge has, I should not have the impudence to face the people of Somersetshire. I complain heavily of both the representatives of this county. The one has voted for every tax which you are now complaining of; and the other did the same while his faction, the Whigs, were in power.—(*Cheers.*) He voted to make corn dear: he voted to raise the salaries of the Royal family from 12,000*l.* to 18,000*l.* a year. That might not be wrong when things were in a flourishing state, and prices high; but who, in the changed state of affairs, has moved to reduce those salaries again? When the Dukes of York and Clarence first got 18,000*l.* a year, 4,000 sacks of wheat would pay the amount; but now 20,000 sacks will hardly pay it.—(*Cheers.*) Why have not these things been noticed in the House? Sir Thomas Lethbridge is a friend of Government, and he, perhaps, may not like to notice them; but Mr. Dickinson is on the other side, why has not he done it? It is not that he has got a sly bit for himself, is it? Is he a wolf in sheep's clothing, sitting with the opposition and voting with ministers? I got hold of some old documents in the course of my investigation, gentlemen, about Ilchester gaol, and, among others, of an account of monies allowed, in 1821, for the maintenance of the Somersetshire yeomanry. I find 5,805*l.* received by Mr. Dickinson, who is colonel of that corps, for the service of the officers. Doubtless Mr. Dickinson will be able to show that he never pocketed one farthing of that allowance. Doubtless he will move for papers and returns to show what became of the money, for I can't find any body else who knows what

became of it. Mr. Hayward, who stands near me, was an officer in the corps in 1821; he never touched a shilling of the money, nor ever knew any one who did. What went with it? 5,000*l.* a year paid to the Yeomanry! and for what? For crossing over to Bristol and drawing their swords, when I was asking for the same things that Mr. Hanning asks for to-day. A most important service! a praiseworthy muster! And when will the gentlemen draw the sword again? To drive the tax-gatherer and the bailiff from their doors before long, if things go on in this way. —*(Cheers and Laughter.)* But this is not the only picking which Mr. Dickinson has got from Government. I find him a Collector of Customs in the Bristol channel; having a grant from the Crown of the Flat Holm Light House—a holding which a friend of mine tells me he would give 8,000*l.* a year for.

The HIGH SHERIFF interfered. The public conduct of gentlemen (he said) might be touched upon; but not their private affairs. The light-house in question was Mr. Dickinson's private property.

Mr. HUNT still contended that he was right. Mr. Dickinson had held place under the Whigs.

Mr. DICKINSON said that he had never taken place with the Whigs.

Mr. HUNT—Then it was with the Grenvilles: there was a place somehow.

After commenting on the atrocity of the game-laws and the necessity of a reform of the Church, Mr. Hunt strenuously urged the meeting not to wait for another county meeting, but to petition for reform *now*.

The HIGH SHERIFF interfered, and declared, once for all, that he would not entertain any Petition in which Reform was called for, because that topic had nothing to do with the present meeting.

Mr. HUNT.—I apprehend that it is for the meeting, and not for the Sheriff, to say what topics are relevant to the question before them. I say that Parliamentary Reform is a relevant topic. (Cries of "It is, it is.")

The HIGH SHERIFF.—The law allows me to decide.

Mr. HUNT.—I think not.

The HIGH SHERIFF.—I say that it does; and I refuse to put the question.

Some further altercation ensued; Mr. Hunt however read the petition he proposed as an amendment, as follows:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament Assembled.

"The petition of the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the county of Somerset, assembled in public meeting, convened by the Sheriff in the city of Wells, in the said county, the 21st day of January, 1823,

"Showeth,—That your petitioners have cheerfully made the greatest sacrifices at all times for the defence of their country, and to promote the safety and honour of the throne.

"That, to recite the sufferings of your petitioners would be in vain; they are now well known, and are at length become past all endurance.

"That these calamities have been brought upon your petitioners by excessive taxation, which has arisen solely from the want of a fair and equal representation of the people in the Commons House of Parliament. Your petitioners therefore pray,

"1. For a great reduction of the standing army, including staff, barracks, and colleges.

"2. For a total abolition of all sinecures and useless places, and of all pensions, grants, and emoluments, not merited by well-known public services.

"3. For a great reduction in the Civil List, and of all the salaries of the Royal Family, and especially that of the German Prince of Saxe Coburg, which your petitioners humbly pray may be reduced, at least to six thousand a-year—the sum paid to the President of the United States of America.

"4. For a corresponding reduction of all the salaries of all the officers of State, the Judges, and all persons paid out of the taxes.

"5. For an immediate repeal of the tax on salt, malt, hops, leather, soap and candles, farmer's riding-horses, and tradesmen's draught-horses.

"6. For a repeal of the odious and tyrannical game-laws, and for a law to be passed to authorize every farmer and his friends to kill game on the land which he occupies.

"7. For a law to be passed to exclude all clergymen from holding commissions of the peace, or acting as commissioners of taxes, sewers, or turnpikes.

"8. For a repeal of the General Turnpike Act, passed during the last session of Parliament, which act authorizes the commissioners to levy a heavier tax on a poor man's cart than on a gentleman's carriage.

"Your petitioners further pray, that your honourable House will be pleased forthwith to pass an act to ensure such an immediate reform in the Commons House of Parliament, as will give to every Englishman a vote for the Representatives who are to sit there; so that such equitably and constitutionally chosen Parliament may, without loss of time, adopt such measures with regard to Church and State as would ensure the freedom and happiness of the people, the security of the Throne, and the prosperity of the country.

The Rev. HENRY CRESWELL, Vicar of Creech St. Michael, in seconding the Amendment, urged in strong terms the necessity of a Reform in the Church, both as to revenues and discipline, and the sale both of church and crown lands, to meet the public exigencies. Mr. Creswell proposed a rider to the Amendment, which was however negatived.

Mr. DICKINSON (who was received with great disapprobation) replied to Mr. Hunt's charges. He declared, upon his solemn honour, that he had never appropriated to his own use one farthing of the money intended for yeomanry purposes; and it was notorious that the yeomanry officers had to defray part of their expences out of their own pockets. As to the light-house dues in the Bristol Channel, they had been leased to his grandfather for a valuable consideration, and were his private property by inheritance. Mr. D. then made some remarks upon the topics of the day, in the course of which he observed, that the church held its tithes upon the same firm tenure as that by which every other species of property was held, with the addition, perhaps, of greater antiquity in its favour.

Sir THOMAS LETHBRIDGE (who was also greeted with hisses) said he should be wanting in candour towards them if he did not express his highest approbation of the manner in which the Meeting was conducted. He had for a long time seen with pain that the great body of the labouring classes had been, *by some means or other*, considerably oppressed; and it was for the purpose of impressing this fact upon the legislature of the country, that he had attended so respectable a Meeting, to ascertain their real sentiments. He applauded the manly and British manner in which the Meeting had conducted itself. He approved of the original motion; and, respecting the amendment of Mr. Hunt, he was bound to say, that the speech with which it was enforced contained many things deserving the approbation they had bestowed upon them, and which were delivered by Mr. Hunt with a good humour that was only equalled by their manner of receiving them. He strongly recommended their adoption of the original motion, and hoped to have the pleasing task of enforcing it in Parliament. He went to the House of Commons as their Representative. *(A cry of "No, you don't).* For the last two sessions he had been a constant advocate for a reduction of taxation: his first step had invariably been to look to those taxes which more immediately pressed upon the lowest classes of society. He was one of those who advocated the repeal of the salt-tax, and reduced that tax to the extent of 13 shillings out of 15 shillings the bushel. That was surely a good earnest of the sincerity of his professions.

A discussion then arose respecting the question of Reform; and the High Sheriff, after being hard pressed to name an early day, fixed Tuesday next for a meeting on the subject; in consequence of which Mr. Hunt expunged the last paragraph of his Petition.

The HIGH SHERIFF called for the show of hands upon Mr. Hunt's amendment, and the great multitude in front of the hustings, with the exception of about 50 persons, held up their hands in its support: very few of the gentlemen on the hustings held up their hands at all.

The HIGH SHERIFF said the show of hands was very decisive before the hustings, but he saw none held up for the amendment upon them.

Mr. HUNT.—I know nothing of distinction of persons at a County Meeting; but it is your duty to decide, Mr. Sheriff, upon the numbers—say with whom they are?

The HIGH SHERIFF.—They are certainly with you. I am bound to say so. *(Cheers).*

Mr. HUNT then proposed that the Petition be signed by the High Sheriff on the part of the Meeting. The motion was carried.

The HIGH SHERIFF declined signing it: he said it was not usual. The House of Commons had decided that a petition so signed was only the petition of the subscriber, and he certainly had had nothing to do with this petition.

Mr. HUNT.—This is all a quibble: as the public organ of this Meeting, you ought to certify the act of the Meeting, and that is all you do by signing the petition.

The HIGH SHERIFF.—I shall not sign either of the petitions. *(Great uproar.)*

Mr. HUNT.—Then what business had you to call the Meeting? What do you mean to do with the petition which has been carried?

The HIGH SHERIFF.—Move that it be presented by somebody to the House of Commons.

Mr. HUNT.—I am too old a soldier to be caught that way—what! move a petition from nobody to be presented! Sign it first in behalf of the Meeting, whose Chairman you are. Do your duty, Mr. Sheriff.

The HIGH SHERIFF.—I hope I shall always do my duty honestly and fearlessly.

Mr. HUNT moved a vote of censure upon the High Sheriff, for refusing to sign the petition: the motion was carried.

The uproar continuing, the High Sheriff dissolved the Meeting. Loud cheers hailed Mr. Hunt to his Hotel.

YORKSHIRE.

In consequence of a Requisition signed by more than 2,400 freeholders, the High Sheriff, Richard Bethel, Esq. convened a County Meeting on Wednesday, at York, expressly on the subject of Parliamentary Reform. It was held in the Castle-yard; and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, was attended by at least 5,000 people. All the principal gentlemen of the county were present. The Sheriff took the chair a little after 11 o'clock, and having opened the business,—

WALTER FAWKES, Esq. addressed the freeholders in an able and animated speech. He observed, that they were now called upon to consider the state of the country, and to denounce the system under which that country had been ruled, by one set of men, for nearly half a century—a system under which a mass of debt and taxation had been accumulated upon the country, which would be totally incredible, if not provable *(hear, hear!)*—a system under which they had witnessed a destructive

spread of corruption; which had produced large armies in time of peace, which had fostered such flagrant violations of public liberty at home and abroad, that to mention them would call a blush into the cheek of any Englishman who recollected that the country of Elizabeth and of William was now connected with a set of crowned despots, leagued together against the liberties of mankind *(applause)*—despots who looked upon the descendants of the immortal heroes of Marathon and Thermopylæ as traitors, and considered them unworthy the commiseration of freemen, because they gloriously struggled to release themselves from the iron yoke of the bloody and barbarous Mussulmans *(hear, hear!)*—a system which was profuse of sinecurists and pensioners, thousands of whom, wallowing in wealth, congratulated each other on the prosperity of the country, while thousands of their fellow-countrymen were steeped in poverty up to the very lips *(hear, hear!)*—a system which was visible in the restrictions placed upon the press; in which, as was not long ago seen in Westminster-hall, hosts of spies were employed to excite discontent, and even treason, and then to become the vile instruments of the capital conviction of their victims—a system which, in fine, by the recent restrictions on the press, and in many instances upon the liberty of speech, exposed its opposers to fine, imprisonment, and even to the risk of capital punishment. The whole of the evils under which the country laboured at the present moment, might be more immediately traced to an enormous expenditure of the public money, which was so great, that it would incur the appearance of fiction if not capable of the most rigid demonstration. It would perhaps surprise the meeting, when he stated, that in the reign of one monarch, a reign of 59 years' duration, that of Geo. III. there was expended exactly three times the amount of all that had been expended by his predecessors on the throne, amounting in number to 31, and comprising in their reigns a period of seven hundred years. *(Cries of "We feel it.")* At the end of the reign of George II. the whole of the sums expended in the government of the country, was 795,060,349*l.* besides a public debt of 125,832,000*l.* At the end of the reign of George III. the sum was not less than 2,357,441,262*l.* *(Hear, hear!)* The hon. gentleman proceeded to analyze the state of the Representation, and to shew, from authentic documents, that a clear majority of the House of Commons was returned by a few peers and rich commoners. He particularly directed attention to the statement of Lord John Russell,—that out of 33 boroughs, whose inhabitants were under 1,000, 44 of the members returned were found voting against all measures of economy and reform, while only 12 were in support of them; and that out of 31 boroughs, whose inhabitants were under 10,000, the proportion of the votes were 38 for reform, and 21 against it. Mr. Fawkes expatiated also on the enormous number of pensioners in Parliament, and the large sums annually paid them out of the taxes. He noticed the allusions to himself in Mr. Canning's Liverpool speech, and refuted that Rt. Hon. Gentleman's sophism—that an independent Parliament was incompatible with a limited monarchy. Mr. Canning seemed to think that it was necessary for the public good that Ministers should have the constant control of a majority of the House of Commons: but this he (Mr. Fawkes) pronounced to be nothing short of *tyranny in disguise*; for it was well known that there was no benefit which could arise from a House of Parliament so constituted, that might not be predicated of an absolute despotism. Augustus Cæsar had, in the exercise of absolute power, conferred various benefits on his people; but they were more than counterbalanced by the crimes of a Tiberius, a Nero, and a Caligula. *(Hear, hear!)* Mr. Canning argued, that the disfranchisement of rotten boroughs would be an act of injustice to the proprietors. But was the safety of the country to be sacrificed to individual corrupt interests? When James II. was expelled, little regard was had to his "vested rights," though his were of the highest order. He was an heriditary monarch, yet we banished him the throne and the country, and sent him to beg for his subsistence. After some more excellent remarks, Mr. Fawkes concluded amidst loud and general cheering, by moving the following resolutions:—

"1. That the Constitution of this country is a Government consisting of three independent estates—a limited monarchy, a limited aristocracy and a limited democracy; that each of these has its distinct and peculiar functions and privileges, and that one of these estates cannot unduly influence the functions of either of the others without disturbing that balance which is essential to secure and perpetuate the various advantages which may be derived to the people from a Government so constituted.

"2. That the House of Commons as at present composed, does not express the national will; on the contrary, it has too generally proved its readiness to comply with the dictates of whatever Minister may have dispensed the favours of the country.

"3. That the effects of the present state of the House of Commons have been, the wanton and profligate expenditure of the public money, and the unprincipled creation and continuance of useless places and unmerited pensions, in defiance of the loud and general expression of the public feelings.

"4. That the heavy pressure of a load of taxes, imposed for the purpose of supporting an extravagant Civil List, and of maintaining a ruinously large military and colonial establishment, is totally incompatible with a state of profound peace and acknowledged security.

"5. That the only measure which can remedy these evils, and preserve the country from the dangers that may be anticipated from a continuance of them, is a speedy and effectual reform in the Commons House of Parliament.

"6. That a Petition founded on the above Resolutions be prepared, and presented to the House of Commons."

The Hon. Mr. Petre came forward to second the Resolutions, and at the same time to avow, that he was but a recent convert to these opinions. But it was impossible for him to remain any longer a supporter of a system under which he saw an alliance of sovereigns assembled, not for the protection, but the enslavement of the people—when he saw a system pursued at home, which bespoke somewhat of a similar feeling; and he could not resist the adoption of what would be a preventive of such evils.

Mr. Stuart Wortley next presented himself, and addressed the Meeting in a long speech, which was two or three times violently interrupted by the impatience and irritation of the multitude. The High Sheriff, Mr Fawkes, &c. interfered however with success, and Mr. Wortley was heard throughout. He declared at the outset, that he decidedly opposed the views of his honourable friends who had brought forward the resolutions. He was prepared to shew, that for the last 400 years the influence of the Crown and Aristocracy on the House of Commons, which was now so much complained of, had existed without injury; —nay, that the period in question was universally allowed to include some of the brightest periods of our constitutional history. In the speech of Mr. Canning, in answer to Lord John Russell, it was clearly proved, that in the days of Queen Elizabeth, in the end of the 16th century, the Earl of Essex appointed the two members for Staffordshire, and wrote to the High Sheriff, directing him to nominate to all the boroughs of the county. In one borough, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, there was only one house and one inhabitant. *(A voice in the crowd, "It is time such a system should end!")* He further contended, that the present House of Commons was *not* in opposition to the will of the majority of the nation; in proof of which he referred to the American and the French wars, both of which, he asserted, were popular wars at the commencement. Respecting the doctrines advanced by certain European powers, he had never hesitated to state his opinions in the House. If they were such as they were described, no man could abhor them more than he did. *(Hear!)* But had the House of Commons done nothing for its constituents? *(A voice in the crowd, "Yes, it gave us the Six Acts:" much laughter.)* Were there no institutions which rendered more secure the lives, liberties, and property of the people? *(Cries of "The Six Acts," "the Acts.")* Were we not in possession of personal liberty, as extended as that of any civilized people on earth? Had we not an administration of justice pure and unsuspected? *(A person in front of the hustings, "What do you say to the 600 killed and wounded at Manchester: where was the justice for them?")* He maintained, that notwithstanding all the difficulties we had encountered, we were still the greatest nation in Europe. *(A person in the crowd, "Ay, but you have your reckoning yet to pay:" laughter.)* Then again, the Reformers were by no means agreed as to a plan of Reform. Some persons in another place [alluding to the Norfolk Meeting] had proposed as a part of Reform a breach of faith with the public creditor; a measure which he would oppose with the last drop of his blood. *(Tumult.)* He admitted, that there were some defects in the system of representation; for no human institution was perfect; and there might require some regulation—he would not call it Reform. *(Loud laughter.)* But he maintained, that the influence of the Crown was less now than it had been. At one period there were 200 placemen in Parliament; whereas now the number was 89. The influence of the press was also a great counteraction to the influence of the Crown: every man was now informed of public affairs, and exercised a control over them.

Lord Milton was received with great enthusiasm. For many years, he said—and unfortunately it was now 16 years since he had been returned to Parliament as their representative—he had been the determined opponent of Parliamentary reform. It was his duty to explain to his constituents the reasons which had led him to change his former opinions.—*(Cheers.)* First of all the transactions of 1817—the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act upon pretences the most frivolous *(cheers)*—the distribution of spies among the people to excite them to tumult, and the taking advantage of the tumult so created to raise upon it measures the most unjust and tyrannical *(cheers)*—the success with which those delusions were attended, excited a suspicion in his mind that the lower classes of society could not look to the House of Commons with any confidence for protection. The choice of 1819, at a moment when the trying and dangerous experiment of a return to cash-payments was being made, for the imposition of three millions of new taxes—the memorable 16th of August—the Six Acts passed with such breathless haste—and, above all, the proceedings against the late Queen, produced a change in his mind which led to the deliberate adoption of his present opinions. They showed that total want of sympathy between the people and the Parliament, which was, as Mr. Burke had described it, an unnatural and monstrous state of things in the British Constitution. His Hon. colleague had talked of the great influence exercised by the press. He would beg leave however to remind his honourable friend, that there were two sides of the press.—*(Hear.)* Did his Hon. friend never hear of such a paper as the *John Bull*?—*(Loud cries of "Hear!" and "What do you say to that, Mr. Wortley?")* In the present exigencies of the country, a Reform of Parliament was the only thing which could prevent the establishment of a government approaching to something like arbitrary. In his opinion, it was not possible to establish a tyranny more odious in itself or productive of greater security to the tyrant, than that in which the forms of government, established for the purposes of freedom, were warped aside from their original design, and were converted into the instruments of despotism. Such a tyranny had

nothing in it to excite resistance; in the worst of tyrannies there was a hope that the people, being driven to despair, might turn upon their rulers and destroy them; but in such a tyranny as he had described, there was not even that kind of desponding hope, if he might be permitted to use such an expression.—*(Hear.)* He pledged himself to every exertion in his power, uniting moderation with zeal, to promote Reform. [The Noble Lord concluded amidst great cheering.

Mr. Wyvill, M. P. observed, that Mr. Wortley had said, the influence of the Crown had decreased within his memory. It might, indeed, have decreased in the number of placemen; but he would show the manner in which it had increased, and increased enormously. In 1793, the taxes amounted to 17,896,376*l.* and the poor rates to two millions, making a total of 20 millions. In the present year—for though he had the amount of the intermediate years, he would omit them—the taxes amounted to 60,000,000*l.* and the poor rates to 7,000,000*l.* making a total of sixty-seven millions. Here was an increase of taxation with a vengeance; and every body knew that the influence of the Crown had increased in the same proportion.

Mr. Mackenzie Beverley made a very spirited and clever speech — Mr. Wooller commended the unanimity of the meeting; and though he thought some other things might have been usefully embodied in the Resolutions, he willingly gave up all minor points for the sake of singleness of sentiment.

The Resolutions were then put and carried; as was also a Petition founded on them, which was moved by Sir F. L. Wood, who, in the course of his speech, said he trusted the county of York would not be disgraced by any such propositions as had been made elsewhere—propositions which reflected incalculable disgrace on the persons who had moved, and the county which had adopted them. *(Cheers, and a cry of "Yes, yes, we'll have nothing to do with old Cobbett and his stinking bones here."* Indeed, from their present temper of mind, he was certain that the bare mention of such propositions would ensure their rejection. *(Cheers.)*

After some other Gentlemen had addressed the Meeting, thanks were voted to the High Sheriff, and the Meeting was dissolved about 4 o'clock.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, Jan. 19.—M. the Count de Lagarde is recalled from Madrid.—*Etoile*, Ultra Evening Journal. The *Moniteur*, however, says nothing of this alleged recal.

Paris, Jan. 22.—France has refused the mediation of England twice proposed; first by the Duke of Wellington, and secondly by Sir W. A'Court.

The ambassadors of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, who have left Spain, will be at Paris in three days. They will be accredited on their return to the Regency of Spain.

SPAIN.

The *Universal* of the 9th contains a decree by the Cortes on the subject of the reclamations made by England for losses to her subjects by piracies and captures for violation of blockade in the West Indies. Spain admits the claims generally, leaving their particular amount to be determined by future arrangements; and a sum of 40,000,000 of reals (400,000*l.*) is inscribed in the Great Book, to answer them when adjusted.

THE CORTES.

Sitting of January 9th.

M. San Miguel, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, spoke as follows:—"The Government of his Majesty has received from the Courts of Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, communications, to which it has just made the answer which seems to it the most proper and most suitable to the honour of the nation. Although the Government knows that this affair does not necessarily come within the province of the Cortes, yet it would deem itself wanting to the sentiments of fraternity which unite it to the national Congress, if it did not acquaint that body with it." The Minister then read the Note which the French Government transmitted to the Count de La Garde, and afterwards the Answer of the Spanish Government, conceived in the following terms:—

"*To the Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty at Paris.*" &c.

"The Government of his Catholic Majesty has just received a communication of a Note sent by his Most Christian Majesty to his Ambassador at this Court, and of which your Excellency will receive a copy for your information.—The Government of his Catholic Majesty has few observations to make on this Note; but that your Excellency may not be embarrassed as to the conduct you have to pursue in this conjuncture, it has thought fit to explain to you with frankness its feelings and its resolutions.

"The Spanish Government has never been ignorant that the institutions adopted spontaneously by Spain would excite the jealousy of several of the Cabinets of Europe, and would be the object of the deliberations of the Congress of Verona. But, firm to its principles, and resolved to defend, at any price, its present political system and the independence of the nation, it has quietly awaited the result of that Congress.—Spain is governed by a Constitution promulgated, accepted, and sworn to in 1812, and acknowledged by all the Powers which assembled in the Congress of Verona. Perfidious Counsellors prevented his Catholic Majesty, Ferdinand VII. from swearing on his return to Spain to this fundamental Code, which all the nation desired, and which was destroyed by force without any protest from the powers which had acknowledged it; but the experience of six years, and the general will, engaged his Majesty in 1820 to conform to the wishes of the Spaniards. —It was not a military insurrection which established this new order of things at the commencement of 1820. The courageous men who declared themselves in the Isle of Leon and successively in the other provinces, were nothing but the organs of the general opinion and the wishes of the whole nation.—It was natural for a change of this nature to produce a few malcontents. This is the inevitable consequence of every reform which has for object the diminution of abuses. There must be always in a nation persons who cannot accustom themselves to the yoke of reason and justice.

"The Army of Observation which the French Government keeps up at the foot of the Pyrenees, cannot calm the disorders which afflict Spain. Experience, on the contrary, has shewn, that the existence of this Sanitary *Cordon*, which has since been transformed into an Army of Observation, has only increased the hopes of the fanatics, who have raised in our provinces the cry of rebellion, while they foster the hope of an approaching invasion of our territory.

"As the principles, the views, or the fears which have influenced the conduct of the Cabinets assembled at Verona, cannot serve as a rule to the Spanish Government, it abstains, for the present, from answering that part of the instructions of the Count de la Garde, which refers to that Congress. The days of calm and tranquillity which the Government of his Christian Majesty wishes to the Spanish nation, the latter desires with not less impatience for itself and its Government. Both of them, persuaded that the remedy for their evils can be the work of time and perseverance alone, endeavour as much as they can to accelerate useful and salutary effects.

"The Spanish Government appreciates the offers which his Christian Majesty makes to contribute as much as possible to its happiness; but it is persuaded that the means and precautions which his Majesty takes can only produce contrary results. The aid which, at this moment, the French Government should give to that of Spain is purely negative; it would be necessary to dissolve its army of the Pyrenees—to repulse the factious enemies of Spain, who take refuge in France, and to assume an energetic tone towards those who take pleasure in blackening, in the most frightful manner, the Government of his Catholic Majesty, as well as the institutions of Spain and her Cortes. This is what the right of nations requires—a right respected by those over whom civilization exercises its sway. To say that France wishes for the welfare and tranquillity of Spain, while the brands of discord, which feed the evils with which she is afflicted, are kept continually alight, is to fall into an abyss of contradictions.

"Whatever may be the determination which the Government of his Catholic Majesty may deem advisable to take in this conjuncture, that of his Spanish Majesty will continue quietly to proceed in the path pointed out by its duty, the justness of its cause, the character of firmness and attachment to constitutional principles, which eminently distinguish the nation at the head of which it finds itself placed; and without entering for the present into an analysis of the hypothetical and *ambiguous* expressions *(amphibologiques)* of the instructions sent to the Count de la Garde, it concludes that the repose and prosperity of the nation, as well as every thing that can multiply the elements of its prosperity, can interest no one more warmly than herself; that her motto and the rule of her conduct, present and to come, are a constant attachment to the Constitution of 1812, peace with the nations, and, above all, never to acknowledge, in whoever it may be, the right of interfering in her concerns.

"Your Excellency is authorised to read this Note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy if he request it. Your judgment and your prudence will suggest to you the line of conduct, firm and worthy of Spain, which you are to follow at this moment.

"Such are the communications which his Majesty orders me to make to you, &c. "Evariste San Miguel."

M. S. Miguel then read the Notes of Prussia, Austria, and Russia, and said—"The Government of his Majesty has thought that it was not proper nor just to answer to these notes, because they are full of invectives, calumnies, and suppositions, directed not precisely against the nation but against those who govern it, and against the individuals who have co-operated in our regeneration—(several Deputies cried—*They are directed against all—against the whole nation.)* The Government of his Majesty has thought fit, reserving the right of publishing its principles and the justice of its cause in a sincere exposition of the history of our revolution, to declare loudly, at the same time, that it acknowledges in no sort the right of interference, or the need for any foreign Cabinet to interfere in its affairs. I shall have the honour of reading a note which will serve as an answer to the notes of the different Cabinets:—

NOTE TRANSMITTED TO THE CHARGES D'AFFAIRES AT THE COURTS OF VIENNA, BERLIN, AND PETERSBURGH.

"Under this date I communicate to the Charge d'Affaires of his Majesty at the Court of ———, by royal order, the following:—

"The Government of his Majesty has received communication of a note from ——— to its Charge d'Affaires at this Court, a copy of which note is transmitted to your Excellency for your information.

"This document, full of perverted facts, defamatory suppositions, accusations equally unjust and slanderous, and vague requests, does not call for any categorical and formal reply on any of its points. The Spanish Government, deferring to a more convenient opportunity the exhi-

biting to all nations, in a public and solemn manner, its sentiments, its principles, its determinations, and the justice of the cause of the generous nation at the head of which it is placed, is, for the present, content to declare—

"1. The Spanish Nation is governed by a Constitution which has been solemnly recognised by the Emperor of Russia.

"2. The Spaniards, friends to their country, proclaimed, at the commencement of 1812, that Constitution, which was abolished by violence alone in 1814.

"3. The Constitutional King of Spain freely exercises the Powers which the Constitution has bestowed upon him.

"4. The Spanish Nation does not interest itself with the internal government of other nations.

"5. The remedy of the evils which afflict the Spanish Nation is for its own consideration alone.

"6. Those evils, are not the result of the Constitution, but rather of the efforts of its enemies to destroy it.

"7. The Spanish Nation will not acknowledge the right of any Power to interfere in its affairs.

"8. The Government will never deviate from the line traced by its duties, by national honour, and by its unalterable attachment to the Constitution sworn to in 1812.

"I authorise you to communicate verbally this letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Power with whom you reside, and to supply him with a copy if he require one.

"His Majesty hopes that the prudence, zeal, and patriotism which distinguish you, will suggest to you a conduct firm and worthy of the Spanish name, under existing circumstances.

"The above is what I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency by order of his Majesty, and I seize this opportunity to renew the assurances of my distinguished consideration, praying God to preserve your life many years. I kiss your hands. Your attentive and constant servant,

"EVARISTO SAN MIGUEL.

"*The Palace, Jan.* 9, 1823."

The PRESIDENT.—The Cortes have heard the report that the Government has just made to it. Faithful to their oaths and worthy of the people whom they represent, they will never permit a change or modification to be made in the Constitution by which they exist. The Cortes will give to the Government of his Majesty every power to repel aggression on the part of the Powers who shall dare to attack the liberty, the independence, and the glory of the heroic nation of Spain, and the dignity and honour of the Constitutional Throne of his Majesty. *(Loud applauses from the Assembly and galleries.)*

M. GALIANO.—I demand that, in taking for basis the communication which the Government of his Majesty has just made, the Assembly address a message to the King, to communicate to him the decision adopted by the national representation, to support with all its means the independence of the Constitutional Throne of Spain, the sovereignty and the rights of the nation, and the Constitution by which it is governed, and that to maintain rights so sacred, the Cortes is ready to vote all the aid that shall be required, certain that all possible sacrifices will be made with enthusiasm by all Spaniards, and that they will prefer to submit to any necessity rather than treat with those who would tarnish their honour and attack their liberties. (The Deputies here all rose simultaneously, and uttered cries of—*Long live the free nation! The Constitution for ever! The National Congress and Constitutional Government for ever!* which were repeated by the spectators in the galleries.)

M. ARGUELLES.—I will not endeavour to suppress the emotion which the proposition of M. Galliano has excited in my bosom, in the bosoms of the Deputies, and those of the inhabitants of Madrid here present. I do not however, think, that the desire of the Cortes will be thereby entirely accomplished. It appears to me that the proposition requires that a message shall be addressed to his Majesty, drawn up with that just firmness of language, of which the Cortes have always given the example, and explaining the decision adopted by the Representatives of the nation. I demand, at the same time, of the Cortes, to charge the Diplomatic Commission to present, as promptly as possible, a project of a Message of which the said proposition may be the principal object, and which, I think, ought to be adjourned. The Cortes ought to suspend till then the manifestation of their sentiments, in order that it may never be said that the mere impulse of the moment dictated to us this step, and that it was divested of that august solemnity which ought to accompany so noble and just a decision.

The Cortes adopted the motion of M. Arguelles. The President then nominated that Deputy a Member of the Diplomatic Committee.

M. GALLIANO, who is a member of the Diplomatic Committee, congratulated himself on having M. Arguelles for a colleague. He observed, that though on different occasions he had not voted with that Deputy, he had always been persuaded that at a moment when the object in view was the safety and dignity of the nation, there would be but one opinion in the Congress.

At the close of the debate, all the Deputies rose, and the cries of "*Constitution! the National Independence!*" were alternately repeated.

Saturday, Jan. 11.

Senor GALIANO presented from the Diplomatic Commission the draught of the Message to the King, which was in substance as follows:—The Cortes manifest to his Majesty that they have heard with the greatest astonishment the assertions contained in the Notes of the Cabinets of Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and Petersburg, because these diplomatic communications, besides being inconsistent with the established practice of civilized nations, are insulting to the Spanish nation, its Cortes, and its Government; and that they have at the same time heard with the greatest satisfaction the judicious and decorous answer made by the Spanish Government, which exposes the falsehood of the imputations cast on the nation, and expresses its determination to maintain its rights. The Message concludes by declaring, that the Cortes are prepared to maintain at every sacrifice and risk the dignity of the constitutional throne, and the independence and honour of the Spanish nation.

A long debate followed, in which Senors Arguelles, Galiano, Canga, and the leading Deputies of all parties, expressed, in the strongest terms, their indignation at the insolence of the foreign Despots, and their extreme contempt for their threats. The Message was adopted *unanimously*, all the Deputies present (145) voting for it without a single dissentient. A deputation was appointed to carry it to the King. ["Never," says the *Universal*, "was any Sitting of the Cortes so crowded as this. Neither in the Chamber nor in the galleries could a vacant corner be found. And the curious, who arrived a little too late, could only get as far as to obtain a distant view of the gate of the building. Every one wished to hear the speakers defend the cause of liberty and national honour; and those who were unable to obtain this satisfaction, contented themselves with repeating in the open air the applauses which reached them. When the Cortes had adjourned, the multitude bestowed on some of the Members the most flattering marks of gratitude."]

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE PRUSSIAN, RUSSIAN, AND AUSTRIAN MINISTERS, AND THE SPANISH SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

A Madrid paper of the 13th, brings the Notes which the Ministers of Prussia, Austria, and Russia addressed to Senor San Miguel, on the publication of the Spanish Answer to the former Notes of the three Courts. In these Notes the Ministers demand their passports, as threatened in the former, in case the Spanish Government made no concessions.

1. The *Prussian Minister's Note* declares, that the answer of the Spanish Government not being conformable to the wishes of the Prussian Court, that Court cannot consistently maintain diplomatic relations with Spain. But the Ambassador at the same time assures the Spanish Government, that "the King, his august Sovereign, will never cease to put up the most sincere prayers for the happiness of a nation which his Majesty, with the deepest sorrow, perceives to be in the road to ruin, and plunged into all the horrors of anarchy and civil war."

The *Answer* of Senor San Miguel expresses, in a very few words, that the King of Spain wishes as well to Prussia as his Prussian Majesty does to Spain, and that the passports are forwarded.

2. The *Russian Minister's Note* expresses the real pain "with which the Ambassador has received the Spanish Answer. Europe," it proceeds, "will judge between the Powers who are animated by the noble desire of doing good, and a Government which appears to be resolved to fill up the cup of the misfortunes of Spain.—With respect to the determinations announced in the Note of his Excellency Senor San Miguel, all the responsibility will fall on the heads of those persons who are to be considered as its sole authors; and while the same persons deprive their legitimate Sovereign of his liberty, while they deliver up Spain to all the evils of a sanguinary anarchy, and by means of keeping up a culpable understanding, endeavour to extend to other states the calamities in which they have involved their own country, Russia can maintain no relation with authorities which tolerate and even excite such disorders."

Answer:—"I have received the very insolent Note which your Excellency transmitted to me yesterday, and, limiting myself for my sole reply, to stating, that you have shamefully abused (perhaps through ignorance) the law of nations, which is always respectable in the eyes of the Spanish Government, I transmit, by order of his Majesty, the passports you desire, hoping that your Excellency will be pleased to leave this capital with as little delay as possible.

"I am, &c.

"EVARISTO SAN MIGUEL."

3. The *Austrian Note* speaks of the "calumnious insinuations" of the Spanish Circular, and declares, like the Prussian, that the Cabinet of Vienna cannot continue its diplomatic relations with Spain.

The *Answer* is simply, that the Spanish Government "is indifferent whether it maintains relations or not with the Court of Vienna."

PORTUGAL.

In the Sitting of the Cortes of December 31st, the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Cortes, that his Majesty having required from Great Britain a frank declaration of its views in regard to the menacing attitude of the Holy Alliance towards the Peninsula, the British Minister made the following reply:—"The English Government having solemnly declared, in the face of the world, that it does not assume the existence of a right of intervention in the internal concerns of other States, England will feel herself obliged to lend to this kingdom all the succour of which it may stand in need, as often as its independence may be menaced by any other Power, in any manner whatever. This promise, which is only the repetition of that which England has made under other circumstances and at various times, has no relation, and can have none, with our political institutions; its object being simply to declare that those institutions have not changed, in any manner, the relations which heretofore existed between the two countries."

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTES.

Tuesday, January 21.

BANKRUPTS.

H. Smith, Tooting, Surrey, victualler. Solicitor, Mr. Plaisted, East-place, Lambeth.

J. Williams, Pinners'-hall, Old Broad-street, merchant. Solicitors, Messrs. Swain, Stevens, Maples, Pearse, and Hunt, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.

J. Chalk, Blackfriars-road, coachmaker. Solicitors, Messrs. Young, Hughes, and Vallings, St. Mildred's-court, Poultry.

W. and T. Kelsey, Heckdyke, Nottinghamshire, hemp-dealers. Solicitor, Mr. Hicks, Grays-Inn-square.

B. Stinson, Dudley, Worcestershire, grocer. Solicitors, Messrs. Collett, Wimburn, and Collett, Chancery-lane.

S. Brecknell, Whistones, Worcestershire, hop-merchant. Solicitors, Messrs. Cardale, Buxton, and Parlby, Gray's Inn.

J. Child, Bristol, grocer. Solicitors, Messrs. Vizard and Blower, Lincoln's-inn-fields

J. Wright, Stanwick, Northamptonshire, horse dealer. Solicitor, Mr. Jeyes, Chancery-lane.

S. Safford, Mettingham, Suffolk, farmer. Solicitors, Messrs. Clarke, Richards, and Medcalfe, Chancery-lane.

Saturday, January 25.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

T. Matthews, Starston, Norfolk, farmer.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Jameson, Little Queen-street, St. Giles's, coach-maker. Solicitors, Messrs Saunders and Bailey, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square.

W. Stirk, Beeston, Leeds, Yorkshire, woolstapler. Solicitor, Mr. Wilson, Greville-street, Hatton-garden.

J. Barton, Freckenham, Suffolk, innkeeper. Solicitors, Messrs. Dixon and Sons, Gray's-inn-square.

G. Unitt, Taddington, Stanway, Gloucestershire, farmer. Solicitors, Messrs. Collett and Co. Chancery-lane.

S. Lister, jun. W. Lister, and W. Walker, Lawrence-lane, Cheapside, Stuff-manufacturers. Solicitor, Mr. Pringle, Queen-street, Cheapside.

W. C. Dewshop, St Bride's Court, Blackfriars, painter. Solicitors, Messrs. Keeling and Neck, Tokenhouse-yard.

W. Blanden, sen. East Malling, Kent, farmer. Solicitors, Messrs. Brace and Selby, Surrey-street.

J. Larbalestier and J. Warrick, New Basinghall-street, wine-merchants. Solicitor, Mr. Butler, Watling-street.

D. and J. H. Wagstaff, Skinner-street, carpet-warehousemen. Solicitors, Messrs. Knight and Fyson, Basinghall-street.

J. O'Brien, Broad-street-buildings, merchant. Solicitors, Messrs. Knight and Fyson, Basinghall-street

C. B. Greatrex, Abberley, Worcester, apothecary. Solicitors, Messrs. Norton and Chaplin, Gray's-inn-square.

W. Young, Bernard-street, insurance-broker. Solicitors, Messrs. Lavie and Oliverson, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.

A. Allan, jun. Topping's Wharf, Tooley-street, provision-merchant. Solicitor, Mr. Tanner, Fore-street.

P. Holaban, London-street, wine-merchant. Solicitor, Mr. Lang, Fenchurch-street.

J. Littlefield, Portsea, plumber and glazier. Solicitor, Mr. Young, Poland-street.

W. Shands, Old Change, City, baker. Solicitors, Messrs. Stevens and Wood, Little St. Thomas Apostle.

THE FUNDS.—The tenor of the recent news from France has of course produced a high degree of alarm at the Stock Exchange. The operation commenced on Wednesday, and Consols have been looking lower ever since; until at last they reached a price below 77, from which however, it will be seen, that they have in a slight degree recovered. The gallant bearing of the Spanish replies leaving no hope of compromise on the part of Spain, of course induces many to regard war as certain; but it is at the same time evident that a strong party on the Stock Exchange are of opinion, that after all this bluster and march of preparation, Louis will contrive to avoid an alternative so hazardous to his throne. On this opinion many great holders are acting, and doing their utmost to stem the tide of alarm. As to Foreign Securities, they are necessarily still more affected, those of Spain especially, as our quotations will shew: from the commencement of the reports the French Rentes have fallen 15 per cent. and the other Foreign Securities neary 10 per cent. After all, we are inclined to think that much speculation is going on for a rising market, although, as is always the case during a panic, business is exceedingly heavy. Latest Quotation:—

	Consols for the Account....	76¾
FRENCH.....	Five per Cent. Rentes	87 f.
SPANISH.....	Five per Cent. Bonds of 1821	40⅛ 41⅛ 40 11/16 39 7/16 39 40⅛ 42 40⅛
	Ditto for the end of January	40⅜ 41¼ 40 13/16 40
	Scrip of 1822.....	24⅛ 24 25 3/16 dis. 27 26⅛ 25 25¾
	Ditto of 1820.....	43⅛
RUSSIAN.....	Five per Cents of 1822	73⅛ 74 73⅛ 74 72⅛
	Ditto Scrip.....	73⅛
PRUSSIAN	Bonds of 1822 5 per Cents..	72⅛ 73¼ 74 72⅛
COLOMBIAN....	Six per Cents	56⅛ 55
	Ditto for the end of January	56

We are sorry we have unfortunately mislaid the pamphlets sent us by W. R. H. of Bishop's Stortford.

A NOVICE of *Peveril of the Peak*, FINE ARTS, &c. are delayed till next week by the quantity of important news, both foreign and domestic.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, JAN. 26.

THE belief that the BOURBONS will invade Spain gains ground both in Paris and London, and has produced the usual effects on the money-markets of the two capitals. The French Minister at Madrid, it seems, has orders to quit Spain, and troops are certainly moving southward to reinforce the Army of Observation. Beyond these facts, however—to neither of which we attach much importance—all is sheer rumour and conjecture. King LOUIS is understood to be inclined to peace and quiet in his old age, but it would appear that that there are more powerful personages at the Tuileries than his Majesty—a sort of Ultra *imperium in imperio*, by which war has been decided on. The meeting of the Chambers next Tuesday is regarded as likely to prove decisive of this long-agitated question. But let the decision be what it may, it is impossible that hostilities should take place for some time to come. The season alone must occasion considerable delay; and it appears from the statement of an English gentleman who has traversed the whole line, that the French troops at the Pyrenees do not now exceed 25,000 men, the bulk of whom are by no means well affected to a Spanish crusade. What an army to invade the country that proved the grave of NAPOLEON'S devoted veterans! This view of things is every way gratifying; for it is manifest that the Patriot Rulers of Spain are not the men to lose time by apathy and indecision.

A Madrid paper of a very late date brings the sequel of the diplomatic quarrel between the Despots and the Spanish Government. The substance of the correspondence in which the Ambassadors demanded and received their passports, we give among the foreign extracts. Nothing can be more manly or more just than the brief contempt with which the Spanish Minister, SAN MIGUEL, answers the several notes of the Envoys. To the Prussian's cant about the "good wishes" of his master the Promise-breaker, the Spaniard replies with a happy pleasantry, that the "good wishes" are mutual. To the Austrian's pretence that the Court of Vienna cannot *in conscience* maintain its diplomatic relations with Spain, he makes answer, that Spain is quite indifferent on that score, and encloses the passports. And to the Russian's impudent string of flagrant falsehoods and insulting expressions, Senor SAN MIGUEL returns a just and spirited reproof of the "very insolent tone" of the Note, and adds an intimation, that the sooner this worthy agent of a bullying Autocrat leaves the Peninsula, the better. Nothing has pleased us so much for a long time as the spirit and resolution displayed in this affair by the Spanish Government. The Despots, puffed up with the success of their atrocious doings in Italy, were for playing the same game with Spain; but Senor SAN MIGUEL will at least teach them, that legitimate bullying is properly understood at Madrid. —By the way, politicians cannot fail to remark, that the Russian Despot, who, from his situation both geographical and political, has least concern with Spanish Reforms and jacobinical examples, is the most forward to insult and threaten the Spaniards, and also (it is pretty well understood) to urge on the BOURBONS of France to a mad crusade against Spain. Connect this with the great Russian armies on the Turkish frontiers, and the old bankerings of the Muscovites,—Prince, nobles, and people—in that quarter,—and it will be difficult to see in the conduct of ALEXANDER any thing but a design to embroil France and the South of Europe in foreign and civil war, in order that he may be at liberty to deal with the Turks as ambition and selfishness may prompt, without fear of molestation from rival spoilers.

The domestic events of the week are hardly less important than the foreign news; but the space which the text of both occupies leaves no room for comment. Our paper to-day contains accounts of three great county meetings, those of York, Somerset, and Hereford,—the spirit so decidedly evinced at all of which is in the highest degree cheering to the hopes of the friends of Reform. The York Meeting was the only one called expressly on that subject; but the almost unanimous feeling respecting it was too strong not to manifest itself equally at the others. The declarations of Lord MILTON and Mr. PETRE at York may fairly be considered as expressing the change of opinion which has taken place in the minds of thousands of conscientious persons, in consequence of the trying circumstances of late years. It is gratifying to observe, that at Hereford a proposal to relieve the landed interests at the expense of the other classes, was negatived, while at York and Somerset no such proposition was hazarded.

A partial change of Ministry is announced. Mr. VANSITTART retires from the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, to make way for Mr. FREDERICK ROBINSON. The other changes are only removals among the inferior stations in Administration, consequent upon the

promotion of Mr. Robinson. Mr. Huskisson is to succeed that gentleman as President of the Board of Trade, and is to be succeeded by the Right Hon. C. Arbuthnot in the office of Woods and Forests. Mr. Lushington takes Mr. Arbuthnot's situation at the Treasury, and Mr. Herries is to be appointed to the Secretaryship which Mr. Lushington held. The retirement of Mr. Vansittart looks anticipative of a smart campaign in Parliament, particularly as regards taxation and expenditure, the enormity of which will doubtless be vigorously attacked by sinking landowners, and will require for their defence something stouter than the drivelling imbecility of the late Minister. By the way, the eulogistic paragraph in the *Courier* with which the man of figures was dismissed, was luckless enough. He had *no fault*, it seems, but that of being "too forbearing" to his opponents (kind soul!); and, above all, he was "*so clear in his great office!*" Surely an enemy hath done this. It was only last session, that he himself confessed in Parliament, that he could not explain his own accounts, and was thankful for the appointment of a *Committee* to do it for him,—in virtue of which the nation will be presented next spring with an intelligible statement of its income and charge, for the first time these many years!

Extract of a Private Letter from Paris, received by the *Courier* yesterday morning:—

"*Paris, Thursday, Jan.* 23.

"A Cabinet Council was held yesterday at the Tuileries, after which couriers were dispatched to all the principal Courts of Europe, announcing, it is said, the determination of his Most Christian Majesty to adopt that line of conduct which the dignity of his Crown and the honour of his kingdom had rendered indispensable, and *to declare war against Spain.*"

The *Courier* of last night says, "Some of our cotemporaries have of late inserted statements of increased exertions in the Naval Arsenals, which have a tendency to excite apprehensions of hostilities being expected by his Majesty's Government; *we are authorised distinctly to state, that there has been no such increase of exertion, and that there has not been the smallest tendency to warlike preparations in any of the Dock-yards.*"

The *Morning Chronicle* intimates that there has been a detection of an embezzlement, to a considerable amount, on the part of "a deceased Statesman," and that the matter cannot be kept a secret.—The *Courier* says there is no truth in the insinuation.

Some proceedings took place in the Court of King's Bench, on Friday, respecting a Secretary of the Lord Chancellor, of which no notice was taken in the law reports of the daily papers. They relate, we are told, to a charge against him of taking a premium from a youth, and having him articled to another solicitor instead of himself; so that the young man finds he has occupied four years of his time uselessly. The proceedings, we understand, are of a criminal nature, and a rule was granted.

Reform.—The Lord Mayor has summoned a Common Council on Wednesday next to petition for Reform. The Sheriffs have appointed Wednesday week (Feb. 5) for a Middlesex County Meeting on the same subject.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

Drury-Lane.

On Wednesday evening the play of *Cymbeline* was revived at this theatre, for the double purpose of uniting the attraction of Messrs. Kean and Young in the same piece, and to introduce a *debutante*, in the person of a young lady of the name of Williams, in the character of *Imogen*. The object was completely answered, for the house was crowded to the very cieling; and the play (which however romantically poetical and interesting in the perusal, is occasionally very heavy in the representation) was witnessed with profound attention. Of course, *Posthumus* was assumed by Kean, and *Iachimo* by Young—the two characters affording in a lighter degree the same species of contrast as *Othello* and *Iago*. It was the misfortune of Kean to be somewhat hoarse this evening, but allowing for the drawback produced by that circumstance, his performance was admirable in the only scenes which afforded to his genius a fair encounter. In the first of these, where *Posthumus* is taunted into the wager, there was some admirable marking in the repressed line of passion; and the torrent of feeling, where he imagines himself certain of the dishonour of *Imogen*, was overwhelming in a direction more peculiarly his own. The *Iachimo* of Young is well known, as he performed it more than once last year at Covent-garden. It is a fine specimen of his powers, for it is adapted to them both in respect to declamation and artificial construction. *Iachimo* is assumptive, and consequently artificial, to *Posthumus* and *Imogen*; and eloquent and poetical in the soliloquy of the chamber; all which is particularly suitable to Mr. Young. While *Posthumus* and *Iachimo* are on the stage, *Cymbeline* is bearable; and a very excellent *Imogen* may pass off a scene or two more; but, except to the lovers of fine poetry spoiled, and of that very common commodity, imbecile Royalty, the rest in representation is a tax upon the auditor.

Of Miss Williams, as *Imogen*, we shall say little: passable as to person and voice, without possessing any peculiar advantage in either, she went through the part with little embarrassment, tolerable good sense, but without a single distinctive trait that could convey an idea of genius. A deficiency of this kind is peculiarly unfortunate in *Imogen*, the texture of which is so exquisitely feminine, that all the more delicate shades and markings are necessary to give it the necessary prominency. This it is which renders the performance of *Imogen*, and the kindred characters of *Julia* and *Viola*, so attractive in Miss Tree. The mind is moved as the lake by the pebble, and subsides as gracefully. Miss Williams occasionally mistook loudness for depth of feeling. If only the result of inexperience, she will one day know better.

The minor parts of the play were well cast. Penley's *Cloten* and Cooper's *Arviragus* were good; and the *Pisanio* of Younger most respectable—a heavy part of declamatory explanation rendered duly efficient. Mr. Elliston should not wear out Mr. Terry in such characters as *Morgan*. Some little feeling of the impropriety of making such use of an excellent comedian, ought to strike the Manager. The *Oliver Surface* and *Peter Simpson* of one night, ought not to be the *Morgan* of another; and that as much on Mr. Elliston's account as Mr. Terry's. Wrong this, altogether.

Covent-Garden.

We understand that the *Queen Catherine* of Mrs. Oglevie, on Wednesday, was a most improved and impressive performance; so much so, as to afford a hope that the loss of Mrs. Siddons in a certain line may not remain so absolutely and altogether irreparable as it has long been considered. Q.

NEWSPAPER CHAT.

Bridge-street Gang.—In our obituary of the 28th ult. we mentioned the death of Mr. John Reddish, formerly a respectable bookseller in this town. The way this person was treated by the Society we think it proper to notice:—We apprehend it will be then difficult to find any one who will say, that the attribute of Mercy forms any part of its character; we wish the subscribers knew of the proceeding, for we think in that case many of them would withdraw their support. In July, 1821, they procured a Judge's warrant against him to appear to an indictment to be preferred for selling the *Political Dictionary*, a work published in London, neither the author or printer of which had then been prosecuted. Mr. Reddish was arrested, *though on the verge of* 70, *and in an infirm state of health committed to prison*, where he remained from Friday until Monday evening, when he procured bail; he heard no more of the business that year, and supposed they had given up the prosecution; but in the spring of last year notice was served upon him of trial at the Lent Assizes. During this interval his health had so much declined, principally from the effects of this prosecution, that he had given up business. His children and some old friends recommended an application to the Association to stay proceedings, as the expense of defending himself would be great, and at his time of life they apprehended, if convicted, imprisonment would be of serious consequence;—a solicitor was employed to write to the Society's Agents, informing them of Mr. Reddish's very weak state; that he had declined business; and, as a further inducement, an offer was made to submit and withdraw the plea, upon an understanding that he should not be called up for judgment, unless he again offended. To this Mr. Murray replied, that he must consult *the Committee*. Some time elapsed, and after several applications, an answer was sent that *the offer could not be complied with*. On receipt of this reply, Mr. Reddish made his case known, and a subscription was set on foot to defend him. Mr. Brougham and Mr. Joshua Evans were retained; and poor Reddish, though apparently at death's door, set off on the 31st of last March for Lancaster; the next morning his trial was to come on, but before the Court met, Mr. Murray sent a note to Mr. Brougham, to the effect that the Association would accept the offer before made to plead guilty, on the same conditions; and the spirit-broken defendant, for the reasons already stated, was recommended to accede to the offered terms. This conduct speaks for itself. Sooner than the worthy Secretary would lose a journey to Lancaster, the life of a poor feeble fellow-creature was to be risked; and it was only when it was seen that Reddish had friends, and was to be defended by Mr. Brougham (who, we doubt not, would have given the Society and their Secretary a handsome dressing) that the same offer was proposed by Murray which was by him before rejected. The excitation this affair produced on the frame of Mr. Reddish was so great, and the journey to and from Lancaster weakened him so much, that on his arrival at home he was obliged to be carried up stairs, and he soon after took to his bed, from which he hardly ever rose.—This Body may be said to have *no* support from here, for some months back a list of the Subscribers was published, and (we mention it to the honour of Manchester) *there was only one Subscriber in this town*. Should the Gang again pounce on a similar victim, we know sufficient of the gentlemen who subscribed to defend Reddish, to authorise us to say, that they will again come forward to grapple with a power not recognized by law, and so hostile to every principle of liberty—a society, against which Juries in London, and Judges on the Bench, have strongly expressed their opinion.—*Manchester Gazette.*

Black-Beetles.—As they prove a disagreeable pest where they abound, many arts have been practised for their destruction. The most effectual that we have seen, is the following:—Cover the outside of a deep glass or bason with cap paper (a common water glass, such as is introduced at table after dinner, will answer the purpose well); put some pieces of bread into it, and place it in a cupboard, or in any other place where the beetles are numerous; and in the morning you will find scores that have crept up the paper on the outside, dropt in, and from the polished surface as well as form of the glass, have been unable to escape. Many crickets, as well as cockroaches, will be caught by this means.—*Time's Telescope.*

A singular carriage is about to be exhibited at Berwick. It is called a Chirodrom, and moves without the aid of a horse, at the rate of ten miles an hour, by the power of the hand alone.

A toad, of a dark slate colour, in a living state, was lately found in the centre of a huge mass of rock at least 50 feet below the surface of the earth, by some workmen who were digging for coal, near Birstal: the animal was very lively at first, but expired soon after being exposed to the air.

Legitimate Rule.—Extract from a letter of D. Spagnoletto, at Milan, to a friend in London:—"The police is completely inquisitorial: I observed during my stay that one or two boxes in the Opera were shut, a blind being drawn up; one of these belonged to a certain Duke, who I understood was seized while in the bosom of his family, and hurried to prison, *no reason whatever being assigned!*—The flower of the population of the Milanese are sent by a heavy conscription for seven years into the heart of the Emperor's dominions, while a large body of Germans, Poles, Hungarians, and Austrians, garrison the fortresses of the Milanese. Every night the streets of Milan are patrolled by parties of infantry with as little noise as possible, marching at ordinary time, ready to take advantage of the slightest disturbance. Pieces of ordnance are kept ready loaded before the palace of the Viceroy and the barracks of the city."

By the death of Lord Tankerville, Henry Grey Bennet gains a considerable accession of fortune, of which, from the benevolence of his disposition, he is most worthy. The Countess Dowager will continue to reside at Walton, where, in the midst of the most beautiful gardens and grounds, Mr. Bennet has himself a residence. This estate was given to the Countess during the life-time of the late Lord, and after her death it will descend to Mr. Bennet.

On Monday (the 13th) a meeting took place near Kilburn, on the Edgeware road, between Mr. T. and Mr. H, an officer on half-pay. The parties exchanged two shots; at the second fire Mr. H. was shot through the body. He was immediately conveyed off the ground, and is not yet pronounced out of danger. The dispute originated about a lady.

Mr. Abernethy, it is said, has addressed a letter to the Secretary of State, on the absolute necessity of Repealing the late Act of Parliament which subjects *Resurrection Men* (as they are called) to severe punishment for violating the sanctity of the tomb. Under the present restrictions dead bodies are become very scarce in London, and some of the dissecting rooms are absolutely without an adult subject.

A Correspondent informs us, that the law expenses incurred by Denis O'Bryen, Esq. in a trial arising out of transactions of great notoriety, that excited so much public indignation at the time—we mean the *Franklin* business—have been defrayed by the Treasury.—*Morning Paper.*

A Mile at Four Starts.—Lieutenant Fairbourn, the pedestrian, for a bet of ten sovereigns, undertook on Wednesday morning to run a mile in four minutes and five seconds, at four starts. The place appointed was Hyde Park, where a quarter of a mile was measured. The first quarter of a mile was accomplished in one minute one second; second in one minute; third in one minute and two seconds; and the fourth in one minute and one second—winning the match by a second and something over. One minute was allowed between each start.

An Alarming Patron.—Notwithstanding the prohibition of the Koran against paintings and images, the Sultan Mohammed the Second had a fancy for the arts, and sent to invite Gentil Bellini, a Venetian painter, to his court. Soon after his arrival at Constantinople, Bellini was directed to paint a picture on the subject of the beheading of John the Baptist. When the picture was finished, the Sultan found fault with the representation of the wounded part; and to shew him that his taste was correct, he immediately drew his scymetar, and struck off the head of one of his slaves. Bellini, on leaving the presence, thinking he had got hold of "an ugly customer," set sail for Venice the same evening!

Dutch Sublime.—In the seventeenth century, among other paintings that adorned the great church at Haerlem, was one of "Abraham offering up his son Isaac," which in every respect but the design exceeded all the rest; but that was of true Dutch invention, for Abraham was represented as shooting Isaac with a pocket pistol, when just as it was about to be discharged, a little Cherub descends and makes water in the pan!

Dr. Franklin reckoned it among the felicities of his life, that he could set his own razor, and shave himself perfectly well; in which he had a daily pleasure, and avoided the uneasiness persons are sometimes obliged to suffer from the dirty fingers or bad breath of a slovenly barber.

Winter in London.—It is difficult to form an idea of the kind of winter days in London. The smoke of fossil coals forms an atmosphere, perceivable for many miles, like a great round cloud attached to the earth. In the town itself, when the weather is cloudy and foggy, which is frequently the case in winter, this smoke increases the general dingy hue, and terminates the length of every street with a fixed grey mist, receding as you advance. But when some rays of sun happen to fall on this artificial atmosphere, its impure mass assumes immediately a pale orange tint, similar to the effect of Claude Loraine glasses,—a mild, golden hue, quite beautiful. The air, in the mean time, is loaded with small flakes of smoke in sublimation,—a sort of flour of soot,—so light as to float without falling. This black snow sticks to your clothes and linen, or lights upon your face. You just feel something on your nose or your cheek; the finger is applied mechanically, and fixes it into a black patch!—*Journal of a French Traveller.*

St. Pierre.—Napoleon observed, that but little reliance was to be placed on the writings of a man, in forming a judgment on his private character or conduct; which he illustrated by informing me that Bernardin St. Pierre, whose writings were so sentimentally beautiful, and breathing principles of humanity and social happiness in every page, was one of the worst private characters in France.—*A Voice from St. Helena.*

Sir Walter Scott.—We could not be at Edinburgh without wishing to see the Caledonian Bard, whose fertile and brilliant genius produces poems with the rapidity of thought;—and we have been gratified.—Mr. Scott is a tall and stout man, 35 or 40 years of age; very lame from some accident in his early youth. His countenance is not particularly poetical; complexion fair, with a coarse skin; little beard, sandy hair, and light eyes and eyebrows;—the *tout-ensemble* rather dull and heavy; yet, when he speaks, which he is not always disposed to do, and is animated, his countenance lightens up "with all a poet's extacy." This poet likes conviviality, and tells well, and *con amore*, such stories as are told here only after dinner. He is a great Tory. Mr. Scott has a valuable place, which had been promised him by the Ministry which preceded Mr. Fox's; but he was not in possession when they went out, and some of Mr. Fox's colleagues objected to his having it, saying it was *a job*. "It is at least a job in favour of genius," answered Mr. Fox, with that liberality and generosity which distinguished him so particularly; "it does not happen often, and is not dangerous." Mr. Scott had the place—and I hope does justice to the memory of his Whig patron.—*Journal of a French Traveller*, 1811.

Military Music.—Every morning, about eleven o'clock, the Band of the Guards assembles in the court-yard of that miserable palace of St. James's, and plays for about three quarters of an hour,—softly, slowly,—in that beautiful medium, the *sotto voce* of the Italians, which both for instruments and voices is so full, so rich, so favourable to great effects in music. The performers are mostly Germans. The audience is usually composed of the lower ranks of people; the higher are not up. I have been struck with the profound attention, the fixed eye, where stands a tear, now and then observed among the crowd.—*Journal of a French Traveller.*

Fortunate Tiff.—One of the richest men in England is the Reverend Mr. Hughes, formerly a poor clergyman, but now said to possess a revenue of between 70 and 80,000*l.* a-year. Some years ago, he was in part proprietor of a barren piece of land, for which Lord Uxbridge was then in treaty. The purchase-money (a very small sum) was agreed upon; but the Nobleman not keeping his appointment one day to finish the business, the Commoner, in a tiff, would not give him another meeting. On the above mentioned barren piece of ground were subsequently discovered the rich Anglesea copper-mines, from which Mr. Hughes draws his enormous income.

The Ass of Verona.—The following amusing account of a droll superstition is translated from Voltaire's *Dictionnaire Philosophique*. Surely the spirit of the ass still haunts the place, and has produced that egregious specimen of legitimate *braying*, which the three assinine Potentates—"willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike"—have just sent forth for the scorn of Europe:—"I do not positively know whether the Ass of Verona is still existing in all his splendour, for I have not seen him; but then travellers who saw him forty or fifty years ago, agree in saying that the relics were enclosed within the body of an artificial ass, made on purpose; that he was in the keeping of forty monks of the convent of Our Lady at Verona, and that he was carried in procession twice in every year. This was one of the most ancient relics of the city. The tradition was, that this ass having carried our Saviour into Jerusalem, did not choose to live there any longer; that he trotted over the sea, coming by Cyprus, Rhodes, Candia, Malta, and Sicily, and at length reached Aquilea, where he made some stay, after which he removed to Verona, where he lived for a long time.—This fable originated in most asses having a kind of black cross on the back. It should appear that the populace of Verona had found some old ass in their neighbourhood with a finer cross on his back than his brethren; some old woman would be sure to say that he was the same on which our Lord had entered Jerusalem, and the ass would have a magnificent funeral. The Feast of the Ass was established at Verona, and from Verona it passed into other countries. In France, particularly, it was celebrated, and in the mass was sung—

Orientis partibus
Adventabit asinus
Pulcher et fortissimus—

A girl, representing the Virgin Mary going into Egypt, mounted an ass, and holding a child in her arms, headed a long procession. At the conclusion of the mass, the priest, instead of saying, *Ite missa est*, brayed three times with all his might, and the people answered in chorus."

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Monday, January 20.

BLASPHEMY.—THE KING *v.* TUNBRIDGE.

This was an information filed by his Majesty's Attorney-General against the defendant for publishing a libel on the Christian religion, contained in a work entitled, "*Palmer's Principles of Nature.*"

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL observed, that the Attorney-General, in the exercise of his official duty, had felt bound to bring this defendant to trial, for assisting in the dissemination of calumnies against the Christian religion, which no principle of toleration could justify or excuse. The work had been sold at a shop, No 5, Water-lane, which bore the name "J. Carlile," in which the defendant would be shown to officiate. The sale had not taken place in the ordinary course of trade, but by means of machinery, which the parties absurdly thought would protect them from the penalties of the law. Of the character and tendency of the passages indicted there could be no doubt, and of the criminality of the defendant, he apprehended, there would be as little.

Wm. Smith, *John Purton*, and *Robert Duke*, Bow-street officers, gave evidence respecting the purchase of the book in Water-lane. The defendant was asked by Smith for *Palmer's Principles of Nature*. He said he did not sell it, but it might be got there—(pointing to a partition in the shop, where there was a dial and a list of books with the prices marked) Smith moved the dial to the corresponding number, and put two half crowns into the spout, through which, in a minute or two, the book came up. The defendant stood watching at the door when the witness left the shop.—The evidence of Duke and Purton was of a like nature.

The first count of the information was then read; and the CHIEF JUSTICE stated the substance of the others.

Mr. ABBOTT then read the passages which were charged in the information as libellous. They represented the Bible as without authenticity or connexion; alluded in strong terms to some of the doctrines of the church of England, especially the miraculous conception; alleged that the heroes of the Old Testament were generally immoral characters; and that the book, as a whole, was opposed to philosophic and moral truth.

The *Defendant* then proceeded, in a strong and clear tone of voice, to read a voluminous defence to the Jury. He began by describing Mr. Palmer, the author of the work, as one of the greatest of moral philosophers, who had endeavoured to uproot the superstitions by which human nature was degraded, and to plant in their stead the tree of science and virtue. What standard could be applied to opinion? By what means could it be subjected to control? As well might governments attempt to control the changes of the atmosphere, to stop the currents of the ocean, or to produce a uniformity in the seasons, as to check its course! Persecution might irritate, but it could never convince; and if the persecutors were not deluded by ignorance, or besotted with rage, they would perceive that the doctrines which they attacked were extended in the ratio of the force employed against them by men who rejoiced and triumphed in their sufferings. He would analyze the information, and show that every part of it was utterly without support. It first charged him with being an "evil-disposed person;" but what evidence was there to sustain this sweeping charge? He had only sold a book, for which any respectable bookseller would take an order from a respectable customer,—a book consisting criticism on another book—a book of which, in four years, 3,000 copies had been sold in this country, and several editions on the other side of the Atlantic. This book contained an examination of the Bible; and why should not the Bible be subjected to this process? If it was indeed the work of God, it would no more suffer by inquiry than the animal or vegetable world, which only disclosed new wonders and blessings to scientific inquiries. He then reminded the Jury that the book on which they had been sworn formed no part of the oath which they had taken.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—Yes, it is a most solemn part of their oath.

The *Defendant* argued that it was no part of the oath; but a mere formality or ceremonial attendant upon it, from which Quakers in civil cases were exempted, and their affirmation contained the essence of an oath without the form. He then would ask the Jury, on that oath which they had taken—not to the truth of the Scriptures, but to give a true verdict according to the evidence—on what law they could convict him? Law was a compact for the protection of liberty, property, and life; but religion was none of these; it altogether belonged to mind, over which legislators had no power. An attempt to enforce it by law was most absurd, when Christians actually persecuted that very people from whom they derived the greater part of those books which they deemed sacred. Such an attempt came with an ill grace after the legislators had by act of Parliament permitted any one to impugn the doctrine of the Trinity.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—The act does no such thing; it only relieves certain persons from the penalties to which they were previously liable.

The *Defendant* proceeded to urge that there was no statute to make Christianity part of the law; but the Judges were fond of setting up the law made by themselves, which they call Common Law, against acts of Parliament; as if the Legislature was not so mighty as the Judges. As to that system which Mr. Palmer had attacked, it could form a part of no just law, for reason revolted from it, and morality spurned at it.

The CHIEF JUSTICE interfered and said, I will not suffer such expressions to be applied to the Christian religion.

The *Defendant*, however, proceeded to characterize the Bible as "a thing of fancy."

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—I have a duty to perform to the public, as well as to you; I am most anxious to give you a full opportunity of stating every thing which can tend to your benefit, but I will not, I cannot, suffer the Christian religion to be attacked where I preside.

The *Defendant*.—I am urging nothing irrelevant to my defence. It is not I but the Attorney-General who provokes this discussion by bringing me here. It is no offence against law to publish unanswerable arguments, or to say that the Christian religion is untrue.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—Yes, it is.

The *Defendant*.—Then point out the statute that makes it so.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—I shall do no such thing.

The *Defendant* then proceeded in his address. He asked what this prosecution would do? It might consign a bookseller's servant to a prison, but it could not stop the circulation of the work: on the contrary, it would promote it. The "Age of Reason" had sold but slowly for years; but it had been persecuted into repute, and now sold to the extent of from 5,000 to 10,000 copies a year. He had been in the employ of several booksellers, and he knew that whenever a deistical work was prosecuted, its sale increased rapidly. The printing press could never be put down; it was beyond the grasp of tyranny, which it would ultimately dethrone; it would defy the efforts of venal attorney-generals, of servile chief-justices, of packed juries, though aided by the Bridge-street and Essex-street Associations. He was charged in the information with having published this work, to "the displeasure of Almighty God." This was the real blasphemy. By what special revelation did the Attorney-General pretend to ascertain the will of the great Architect of the universe? He wished he could bring him some ordeal by which it could be shown which of them was most an alien from the divine favour, and he would not shrink from it, even though it were by wager of battle. *(A laugh.)* He would now read to them every sentence of the work, and they would find it contained nothing which was not moral and praiseworthy.—He accordingly proceeded to read the title page and nearly four chapters of "Palmer's Principles of Nature." Intermixed with some matter of an abstract and philosophical cast, there were strong reflexions on the Old and New Testament. At length

The CHIEF JUSTICE said—You have now read enough to show the whole tenour and purport of this work, and I will not suffer any more of it to be read. If you proposed to show, by reading the whole, that the passages selected for prosecution are so qualified by the context as not to bear the meaning which, taken separately, they seem to imply, I would allow the whole to be read: but I will not allow a book to be read in this Court, of which the professed object is to attack the Christian religion.

The *Defendant*, who had repeatedly endeavoured to proceed during this address, then said—"This is my defence, and the Jury have a right to hear it."

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—I do not collect that the Jury wish to hear any more of it.

Several of the Jury said at once that they did not; and one added, "It is scandalous."

The *Defendant*.—This is my defence, gentlemen; will you judge me without hearing it? I insist on my right to read it.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—I tell you I will not permit it. I have suffered you to read thus far, although you yourself represented the work as an attack on Christianity, because I would not conclude a defendant by a word of his own, and because I wished to see clearly that it had this character before I stopped it: but now its object is too plain to be mistaken, and I will not suffer you to proceed. If you can offer any thing to show that you did not publish this book, I am most ready to hear you.

The *Defendant*.—This is a mockery of justice. I will proceed in reading the book to the end.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—I tell you that you shall not. His Lordship then turned to the Jury, and told them, that as the Defendant persisted in a course which he could not suffer, and refused to apply himself to any legitimate topic of defence, he must close the case. There were two questions for them to consider—first, whether the passages set forth in the information were defamatory of the Christian religion; and secondly, whether the defendant had published them: if they were of opinion in the affirmative on both points, they would find him guilty. His Lordship then very briefly stated the substance of the evidence of the police-officers.

While the Chief Justice was addressing the Jury, the Defendant made several attempts to stop him by exclaiming—"But I have not made my defence—It a mockery of justice—I have had no trial."

The Jury instantly pronounced a verdict of—*Guilty*.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved that the defendant be committed.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—Let him be taken into custody, and committed to Newgate.

The Defendant was then taken into custody, and continued repeating his protestations against the interruption of his defence. He also declared that he had been tried by a packed Jury.

The CHIEF JUSTICE desired the officer to take him away, and not suffer him to insult the Court.

Several of the Jury rose, and declared they had not been packed; they had never served before on any Jury.

Mr. GURNEY said—Gentlemen, you are not packed, and that is the best answer to such a charge.

The Defendant was taken from Court in custody.

Tuesday, January 21.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE—MACPHERSON *v.* LOVIE.

Mr. ADOLPHUS stated the case, which was an action for a breach of promise of marriage, brought by Mrs. Macpherson, a widow, against Mr. Lovie, the Captain of a West Indiaman. The damages were laid at 2,000*l.*—It appeared from the evidence of the mother, daughters, son-in-law, and servant of Mrs. Macpherson, that Capt. Lovie had engaged to marry her, and that he had given her a paper in the following terms, dated "London, Oct. 21, 1821. Dear Madam, I do solemnly promise to you, Mrs. Macpherson, that I will marry you when I return from Demerara, please God.—JAMES LOVIE."—[The signature and the address were in the hand-writing of the Defendant, but the body of the paper was in that of the plaintiff.]—*James Macan*, (clerk of the plaintiff's attorney) deposed, that when he waited on the Defendant with a letter, the Defendant said he had never written such an agreement; but, if he remembered right, he had signed his name to a blank piece of paper, and told Mrs. Macpherson she might get what she liked written at the top of it; as for the matter of the 1,000*l.* she might as well have put down 2,000*l.* He asked me (said this witness) if I would take half a bottle of wine with him, or some tea; I chose wine; and he ordered a pint. Shortly after we had drank the wine, he said I might be a great friend to him. I asked him in what respect? He said *by destroying the agreement which they say I have written.* He added, I might as well have part of the money as the rest, and if I would make away with it in his presence, he would give me 150*l.*—On cross examination, the witness said, I believe he said he signed the paper because they bothered him so.

Mr. SCARLETT, for the defendant, urged in strong terms the improbability of any man giving such a promise in such a penalty to a woman who had already buried two husbands, and whom he had courted by arresting. He charged falsehood on all the members of the family who had appeared as witnesses. The truth was, that Capt. Lovie had lived with this lady as his mistress; he parted from her, but she wished to retain possession of the house where she resided. For this purpose he gave her his signature, with permission to fill up the blank with a demise, but she had availed herself of the opportunity to write a promise of marriage. He would prove that she was a woman of bad character and infinite intrigue; that she had not only granted favours to Capt. Lovie, but to others.

Alexander Bremner said, that Mrs. Macpherson had herself told him that she had lived with Capt. Lovie: the connexion had commenced at Dartford, on the way to Gravesend.

Robert Porter, an agent for the Defendant, said, that Mrs. Macpherson informed him that the defendant had given her a gold watch, and that she had tricked him out of a receipt for 10*l.* for half a year's rent. She was very coarse in her conversation—too much for him, though he was a seaman. *(Laughter.)*

Mr. Thos. Buchan, who had married Capt. Lovie's sister, once lodged with Mrs. Macpherson; but he left the house because there were scenes which a decent female could not well put up with.

Mrs. Gilders said that Mrs. Macpherson had lodged at her house three months, during which time she had behaved with great propriety.

Mr. Montrion, an attorney, who had married a sister of Mrs. Macpherson, said, I have not permitted my family to associate with her for three or four years, on account of her general mode of life. I argued with her on the impropriety of her conduct of keeping up a correspondence with a man who did not mean to marry her; she denied the reports; she said if the old fool chose to marry her, it was no concern of mine—that was his look-out: if he would make some settlement on her, she did not care for the man. A short time after that, we quarrelled; I left her house. I once detected her in criminality myself.

Mr. SCARLETT now asked if Mrs. Staniforth (Mrs. M.'s daughter) had not told him that she had seen her mother in bed with men, and carried breakfast to them.

Mr. ADOLPHUS objected, that the witness had not been asked whether she had said so, but whether the fact was so; and therefore the contradiction did not apply.

While Mr. Scarlett persisted in putting the question, and Mr. Adolphus in objecting, the witness was going on with his story.

Mr. ADOLPHUS—Hold your tongue, Sir!

Mr. SCARLETT—Recollect, you are not in the Old Bailey.

Mr. ADOLPHUS persisted in his objection, and

The CHIEF JUSTICE decided in his favour, but permitted Mr. Scarlett to recall the witness, and ask her whether she had ever said so.

Mrs. Staniforth was then recalled, and denied in the most distinct and explicit manner, that she had ever made the assertions imputed to her.

Mr. Montrion then circumstantially related that he was sent for by Mrs. Staniforth and dined with her on the following Sunday, when she made the statements alluded to, by way of complaint against her mother. —On cross-examination, the witness admitted that after the act of criminality in which he had detected the plaintiff, he had repeatedly urged the defendant to marry her; that he had lived with his family for weeks in her house; and that Captain Lovie having given him a general authority, he had offered her 200*l.* to settle the affair.

Mr. ADOLPHUS replied, commenting on the whole case; arguing that Porter and Montriou were unworthy of credit; that no attempt had been made to sustain the grossest statements made by evidence; and that the defence, even if true, was scandalous; and being false, ought to excite the just indignation of the jury.

The CHIEF JUSTICE summed up the evidence, and the Jury found a verdict for the plaintiff—*Damages* 500*l.*

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, *Tuesday, Jan.* 21.

FURIOUS DRIVING.—CRUIKSHANK *v.* TOLLETT.

This was an action for damages sustained by the plaintiff in consequence of the furious driving of a servant of the defendant.

John Clarke remembers on the 4th of August going to Hanwell, in company with his son and the prosecutor; plaintiff sat on the coach-box; witness and his son sat directly behind. It was a two-horse coach. When we were descending Hanwell-hill, at the rate of 12 miles an hour, witness feared danger, and called to the coachman not to flog his horses so violently. Witness heard Mr. Cruikshank say to him "for God's sake don't drive so violently." Plaintiff took hold of the bar on the left of the box-seat, and when the coach had nearly arrived at the bottom of the hill, the coachman again flogged his horses, and turned suddenly round to the left, the coach was thrown over on the right side. Plaintiff was thrown some distance upon the road; witness was thrown upon him, and thinks his weight broke the plaintiff's bones.

Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. deposed that the cup which receives the principal bone of the shoulder had been broken through; from the nature of the injury, should think he would recover the use of his shoulder eventually.

Verdict for the plaintiff—*Damages* 250*l.*

CONSISTORY COURT.—JAN. 23.

CONNUBIAL BLISS—BEST *v.* BEST.

This was a suit brought by Mrs. Best against her husband, James Best, Esq. of Chatham, for a divorce, by reason of cruelty. She charged him with various acts of the most cruel description, such as striking her on the head with a horsewhip, dragging her out of bed, pulling her off the sofa by her hair, grasping her neck, &c. Mr. Best, on the contrary, asserted, that he had always treated his wife with the greatest indulgence,—but that she had behaved to him with the greatest disrespect; that she habitually got drunk and used most obscene language; that she took away jewels of the value of 1,375*l.* that she would look out of the window and over the garden-wall, and use indecent gestures to the passers-by; and that she had formed an adulterous intercourse with a farmer of the name of Mears, of Chatham, in Kent, whom she met at a notorious house of ill-fame in Canterbury.

Evidence was put in, which went to prove that the parties had lived in a very unhappy state—that Mr. Best once called for pistols, saying he would let her know who he was—and at another time, when the coachman came into the room, Mr. B. desired him to take Mrs. B. with him to bed, for he knew that was what they both wanted.—Other evidence was adduced, which stated, that the quarrels used to occur after they had been taking their wine together—that Mrs. B. used to get drunk with brandy before dinner—and sometimes drank two bottles of Champaigne or Madeira, *after* Port, at one sitting—that she used to say, she would get drunk for the purpose of vexing her husband and kicking up a row—and was frequently heard to declare, that she would make old Jemmy (Mr. Best) as jealous as the devil; for which purpose she used to pretend that she had gone out and met this and that Officer, though she had met no one.—Judgment deferred.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

GUTHERON *v.* OLIVER.—This was a proceeding under a warrant for an alleged breach of the peace. Mr. Oliver, a remarkably sedate and elderly gentleman, in a nice brown bob-wig and spectacles, having actually clambered in at the bedchamber window of Madame Gutheron, and—tried to truss the said Madame, much in the same manner as Molly Cooky trusses a duck. Anybody would suppose now, that when a gentleman, bob wigged or not, gets in at a lady's bedroom window, he must of course be instigated by love or gallantry or something of that sort; but here there was no such matter; and we therefore hope no *comical* construction will be put upon Mr. Oliver's adventure—he having been moved thereto by far different motives. The facts were simply these:—Mr. Oliver, as aforesaid, is a sedate elderly personage, remarkably solemn and *prejinct* in his manner. He has a wife about his own age, and they keep a lodging-house, in Southampton-place, New-road. Madame Gutheron is the wife of a gentleman, who is at present making the grand tour, as tutor to a young man of fortune. She herself remains at home educating her two children, and giving lessons in the modern languages in private families. About nine days ago she unfortunately hired apartments in the house of Mr. Oliver—we say unfortunately, because, though Mr. Oliver agreed to take the rent quarterly, she had scarcely been three days in the house before he insisted upon having his rent weekly; and as this did not suit Madame Gutheron, he resolved to "have her out." He had taken it into his head, it seems, that Madame Gutheron was guilty of the sin of being poor. It was true her person was interesting, her manners were amiable and genteel, and she seemed to have some respectable acquaintances; but then, the deuce of it was, she had two children, and one of them was sick; and she herself was a lone woman, as it were—at least he had no *proof* that she had a husband abroad; and if she had no husband how could she pay her rent; or admitting she had a husband, then she was not a *femme sole*; and if not a *femme sole*, she was not sue-able at law.

All these considerations made Mr. Oliver miserable; and he caused his wife to give Madame notice that she must either quit his apartments or pay the rent weekly. Madame remonstrated: but she might as well have tried to soften the great brazen fellow in the Park as Mr. Oliver; and so she promised to leave as soon as she could find other apartments. She accordingly looked out, but Mr. Oliver could brook no delay, and in a day or two afterwards insisted that she should turn out *instanter*—threatening, unless his orders were obeyed, he should put them in force by ejecting her *vi et armis*. Madame could not believe that he would proceed to such an extremity; but, nevertheless, she kept the door of her drawing-room locked by way of precaution. Her precaution was useless, however, for on Thursday morning, as she was quietly taking breakfast in her drawing room, she saw Mr. Oliver's bob-wig pop up before her bed-room window, and, in the next moment, up went the sash, and he himself stood before her with his bob-wig standing on end upon his head—"his soul in arms and eager for the fray!" First he took off his spectacles, wiped them; slipped them into their silver-mounted shagreen case, and slided them into his breeches-pocket. This was a sort of clearing decks for action. Then he seized the chair on which she sat, and shouting "Turn out, Madam!" he snatched it from under her; but, luckily, she did not fall. He next came behind her, seized her by the elbows, put his knees against the lower part of her back, and, having by these means forced her to assume a painfully upright position, he continued so to hold her—he himself standing upon one leg—whilst she and the children cried 'Murder!' with all their might. Their cries attracted a crowd about the door, who, having knocked repeatedly without obtaining admission, and the cries of 'Murder!' still continuing, the door was burst in, and Mr. Oliver was seen still holding the lady by her elbows, and, with one knee placed against her back, hopping after her on his other leg as she struggled round the room, still screaming 'Murder!' The spectators, astonished at this comi-tragic exhibition, cried shame upon Mr. Oliver; but Mr. Oliver, relinquishing the lady and adjusting his brown bob-wig, exclaimed "What the plague d'ye all want?—She's a swindler, and I'll have her out!" He then hitched up his waistband, and made at her again; but the spectators interfered, and the affray ended in some of them fetching her friends, who took her and her children away in a hackney coach. This statement was confirmed by several respectable persons, and the Magistrate called upon Mr. Oliver for his defence. Mr. Oliver, drawing from his pocket a closely-written sheet of foolscap, requested permission to read it. The Magistrate assented. His defence contained nothing but a history of his fears on account of his rent, mingled with many improbable assertions regarding the character of Madame Gutheron; and it ended in acknowledging his having got in at the window, but denying the violence of the assault. The Magistrate told him his conduct had been very unjustifiable, and, unless he could prevail upon Madame Gutheron to forgive him, he must find sureties for his appearance at the Sessions. Madame Gutheron declared her intention of prosecuting, and Mr. Oliver was under the necessity of procuring the required sureties.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

EXECUTION.—On Monday morning, *Giles East*, aged *sixteen years*, was executed on the top of the lodge of Horsemonger-lane Gaol.—This unfortunate boy was convicted at the late Kingston Assizes, of a rape upon the person of a child named Porter; and upon the question of his having perpetrated the crime there can be no doubt; but there were circumstances in this case that had induced a hope of merciful interference—first, his extreme youth; and next, the nature of his connexion with that family which has led him to an untimely end.—A woman, named Sarah Porter, was charged in the same indictment with East, with being accessory after the fact; she was the mother of the child upon whom the outrage was committed. This woman, who was forty-five years of age, had cohabited regularly with the unfortunate victim of her seduction—she being forty-five, he but sixteen.—*Daily Paper.*

We are extremely sorry to announce that the accident which befel Mr. Gough, gamekeeper to Edward Wilkinson, Esq. of Potterton, by the bursting of a *spring gun*, has terminated fatally. The unfortunate man died on Tuesday week, after enduring the most acute pain for nearly three weeks. He was in his 60th year.—*Leeds Mercury.*

About three o'clock on Sunday morning, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. Moss, cheesemonger, opposite the Elephant and Castle, in the Walworth-road, which communicated to the next house, occupied by Mr. Clapp, pastry-cook, and shortly afterwards to the house of Mr. Callaway, fruiterer, all of which were destroyed. The different families had a narrow escape for their lives; Mrs. Moss, in attempting to escape from her bed-room, was dreadfully hurt by a fall. Mrs. Clapp had only time to save herself in her night-dress, leaving under her pillow 15 sovereigns, and a much greater sum in bank-notes, which had been taken in the course of Saturday. Very little property was saved.

ALARMING ACCIDENT AT THE SEAT OF LORD VISCOUNT GRANVILLE.—At Wherstead Lodge, in Suffolk, last week, the Noble Lord had a large party of friends, to enjoy the sports of the field. On Thursday last they were out scouring a wood. The morning was hazy, and the Duke of Wellington was so intent on his game, that he lost sight of the party, and in firing his double-barrelled gun, he unfortunately lodged a part of the contents in the face of his noble host; seven swan shot entered the cheeks and one the nose. His Grace, hearing an exclamation of "I am shot," threw down his piece and hurried to the spot, where he found his friend leaning against a tree, the face streaming with blood. One of the party galloped off to Ipswich for medical aid, whilst the others carried the wounded nobleman to the lodge. A surgeon in less than an hour attended, extracted the shot, and pronounced the noble patient to be not in any danger. We are happy to add that his Lordship is now perfectly recovered, and returned to town.—*Morning paper.*

SEDUCTION AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—About a fortnight ago, a female, about 25 years of age, took lodgings at the house of Mrs. M—d, in the Hampstead-road, where she engaged for board and lodgings at 30*s.* per week. She became a most agreeable inmate of the house the first fortnight, since which she changed to a state of dejection and melancholy. She received frequent letters; but the only time she went out was on Saturday last, when she purchased a quantity of opium. To indulge her, a daughter of Mrs. M. slept with her; but on Saturday night she was in a most melancholy state, and preferred sleeping alone. Her manner excited suspicion; and about an hour after she had gone to bed the servant of the house called to take away the candle, which was out. Suspicions were then verified; the unhappy woman had taken a phial of opium, and was in a senseless state. Powerful emetics were administered by Mr. Hathway, a surgeon, and life was preserved. The cause of the rash attempt was disclosed on Monday before a Magistrate. The unfortunate lady was a French teacher at a very respectable Ladies' Seminary in Kent, when a young prodigal of family seduced her affections, and she gave herself up to his honour and protection, at the Christmas vacation, under the promise of marriage. They took an excursion to Southampton, where the ruin of the unhappy female was effected. With a 5*l.* note he sent her to London, promising to follow in two or three days; but in a fortnight he wrote to state that he was that day about to sail for Italy, through embarrassed circumstances.—Supposed pregnancy, loss of character, and debt, drove the unfortunate woman to distraction. We are glad to hear, however, that her case has met the attention of some philanthropists.—*Daily paper.*—[Why is not the name of the selfish scoundrel published to the world?]

CHORAL FUND—Instituted for the Relief of its Decayed Members, Widows, and Orphans. Under the Patronage of His Majesty.—The Public and the Subscribers to this Institution are respectfully informed, that the ANNUAL CONCERT for the BENEFIT of the above CHARITY will take place on Monday the 3d of February, at the English Opera House, Strand. Leader, Mr. F. Cramer. Conductor, Mr. Greatorex.

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R. Turner, Esq.	F. B. Pickthorn, Esq.
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DEATHS.

On Thursday, in the parish of Ludgvan, Mr. James Hosken, a farmer, who was possessed of some property. In consequence of a dispute with the clergyman, he declared that he should not be interred in the church-yard. He fixed on a spot as the resting-place of his mortal remains, on a hill near the ruins of an ancient tower, called Castle Dennis. Here he inclosed a small space with a wall, and at each end fixed a tablet; on the one is engraved—"Custom is the Idol of Fools;" on the other—"Virtue only consecrates the Ground." In this spot his remains were deposited on Monday last. A concourse of between five and six thousand persons attended.—*West Briton.*

On the 13th inst. Mr. John Emmerson, farrier, of Crook. He had cut off the tail of a young horse: after the operation, the animal seemed perfectly quiet: he went near it, and it directly struck and killed him on the spot.

On Tuesday last, suddenly, at Fairlight Lodge, near Hastings, in her 80th year, Anne, the wife of Dr. Batty.

On the 8th inst. at his house in Queen-square, Westminster, Henry Savage, Esq. Admiral of the White, at the advanced age of 87.

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